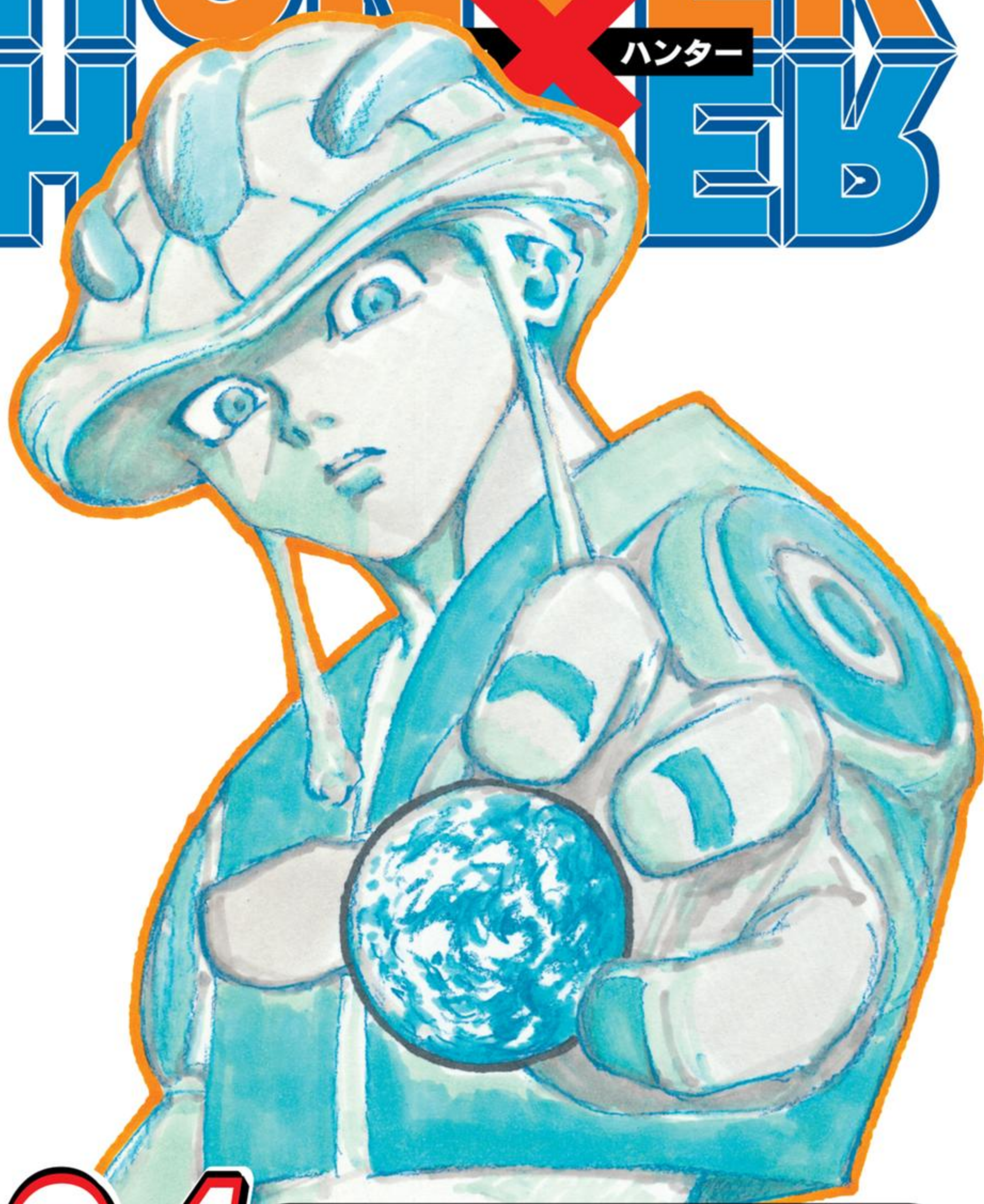


HUNTER

ハンター



24

SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED

Story & Art by

YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI



My assistant made this—it's a double-layered sticker. The top layer is just the fishing rod, so if you peel it off, it's just Gon punching! That's so awesome!!

Yoshihiro Togashi



Yoshihiro Togashi's manga career began in 1986 at the age of 20, when he won the coveted Osamu Tezuka Award for new manga artists. He debuted in the Japanese **Weekly Shonen Jump** magazine in 1989 with the romantic comedy **Tende Shôwaru Cupid**. From 1990 to 1994 he wrote and drew the hit manga **YuYu Hakusho**, which was followed by the dark comedy science-fiction series **Level E**, and finally this adventure series, **Hunter x Hunter**, available from VIZ Media's SHONEN JUMP Advanced imprint. In 1999 he married the manga artist Naoko Takeuchi.

HUNTER X HUNTER Volume 24

The SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY
YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI

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SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED MANGA



HUNTER

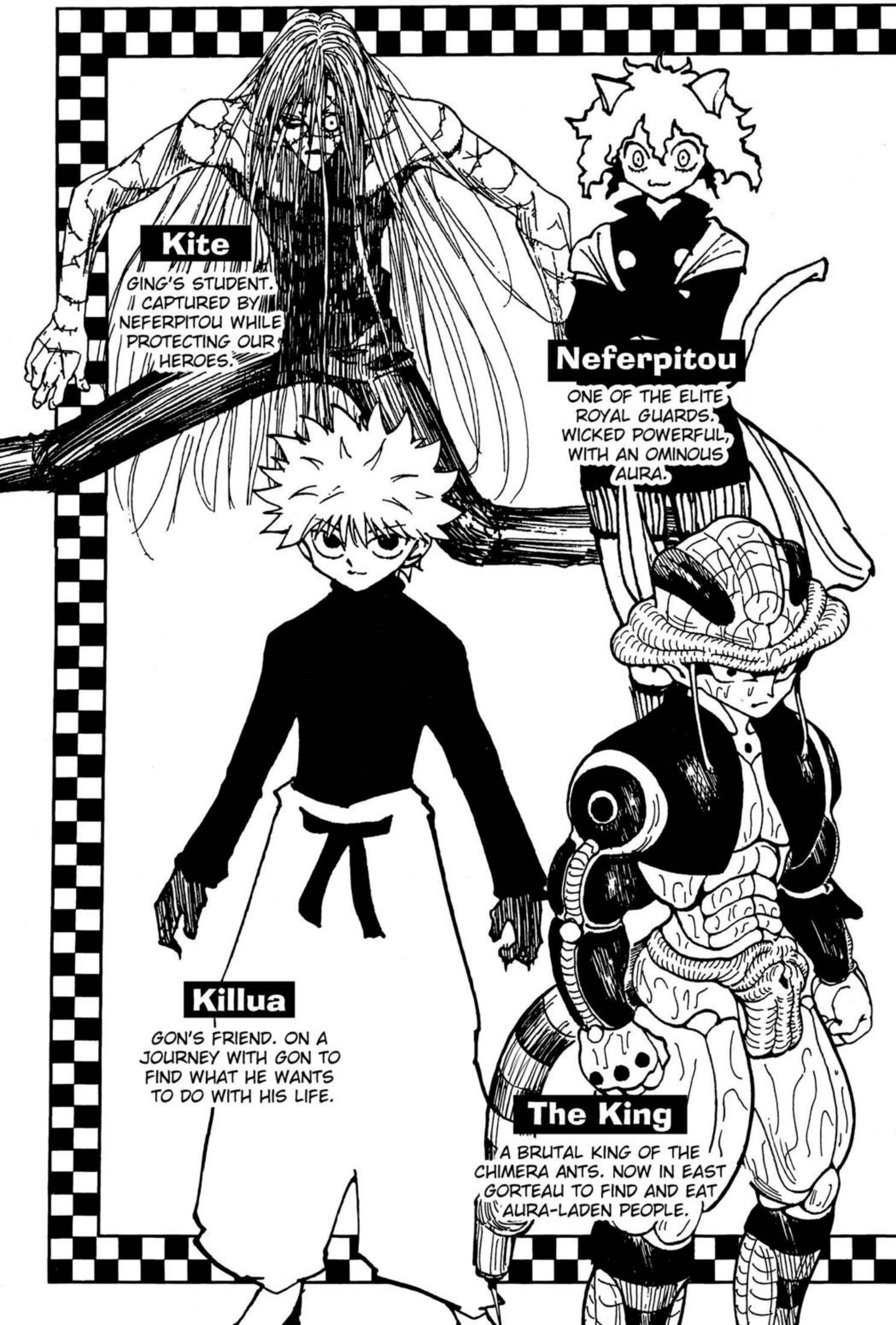


ハンター

Story & Art by

Yoshihiro Togashi

Volume 24



Kite

GING'S STUDENT.
// CAPTURED BY
NEFERPITOU WHILE
PROTECTING OUR
HEROES.

Neferpitou

ONE OF THE ELITE
ROYAL GUARDS.
WICKED POWERFUL,
WITH AN OMINOUS
AURA.

Killua

GON'S FRIEND. ON A
JOURNEY WITH GON TO
FIND WHAT HE WANTS
TO DO WITH HIS LIFE.

The King

A BRUTAL KING OF THE
CHIMERA ANTS. NOW IN EAST
GORTEAU TO FIND AND EAT
AURA-LADEN PEOPLE.



Gon

OUR EAGER HERO. NOW
A HUNTER, HE'S ON A
SEARCH TO REUNITE
WITH HIS FATHER!

The Story Thus Far

GON DREAMS OF BEING A HUNTER LIKE THE FATHER HE BARELY REMEMBERS, THE GREAT GING FREECSS. HE PASSES THE HIGHLY SELECTIVE LICENSING EXAM, BUT FINDING GING WILL BE EVEN HARDER.

GON REUNITES WITH GING'S OLD COMRADE KITE AND STARTS ON ANOTHER ADVENTURE IN NGL, WHERE THE VICIOUS CHIMERA ANTS HAVE BUILT THEIR NEST. GON AND KILLUA ESCAPE AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE FORMIDABLE NEFERPITOU, IN EXCHANGE FOR KITE'S CAPTURE. FINALLY, THE KING ANT IS BORN—A VICIOUS CREATURE WHO WOULD EVEN EAT HIS OWN KIND. THE KING LEAVES THE NEST BEHIND AND TAKES OVER THE REPUBLIC OF EAST GORTEAU. KITE IS RECOVERED BY THE HUNTERS, BUT HE IS NO LONGER THE MAN HE USED TO BE... AND GON VOWS TO TURN HIM BACK!

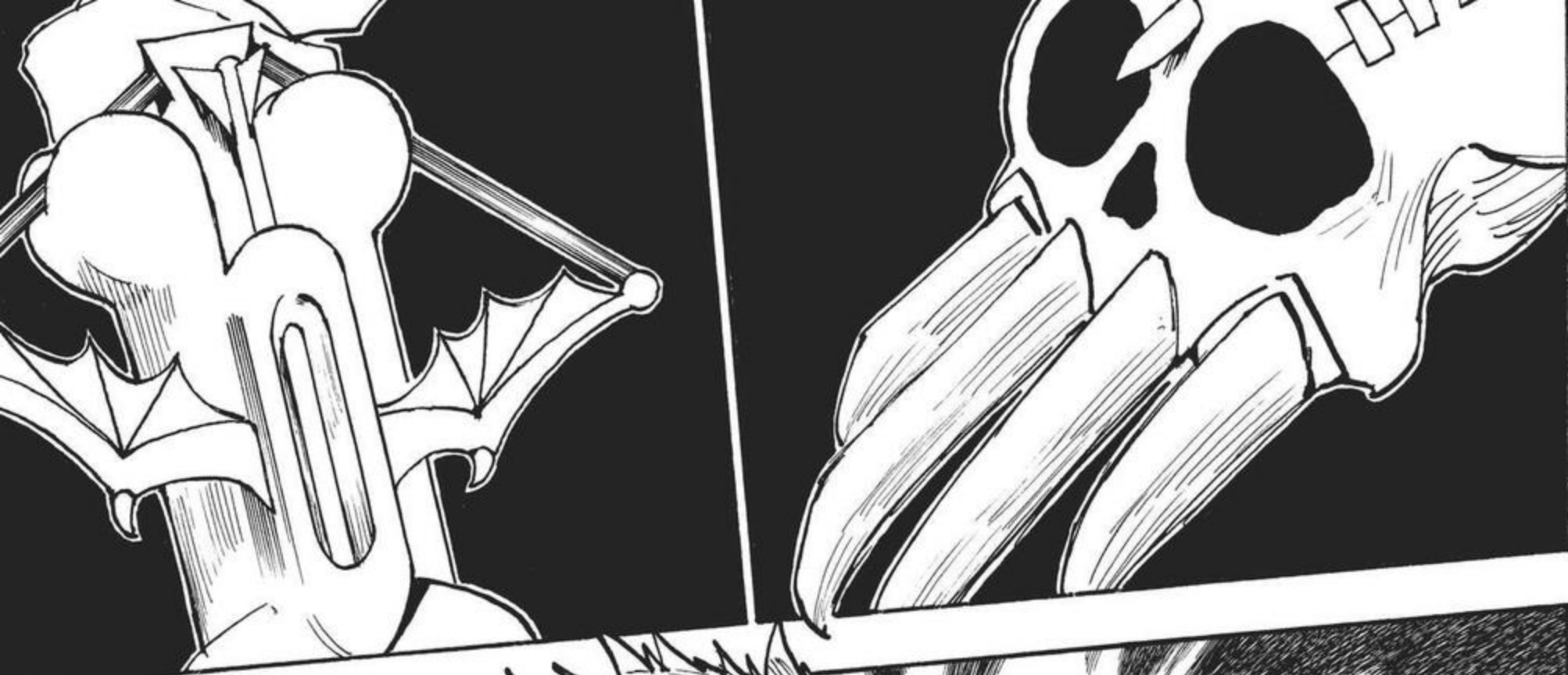
OUR HEROES SNEAK INTO EAST GORTEAU TO DEFEAT THE KING, SPLITTING UP TO EXECUTE THEIR PLANS. THEIR GUERRILLA BATTLE AGAINST THE ANTS BEGINS!!



Volume 24

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FOR BOTH
CLOSE-
AND LONG-
RANGE
COMBAT.

A
CROSS-
BOW AND
CLAWS!!

HEH
HEH.

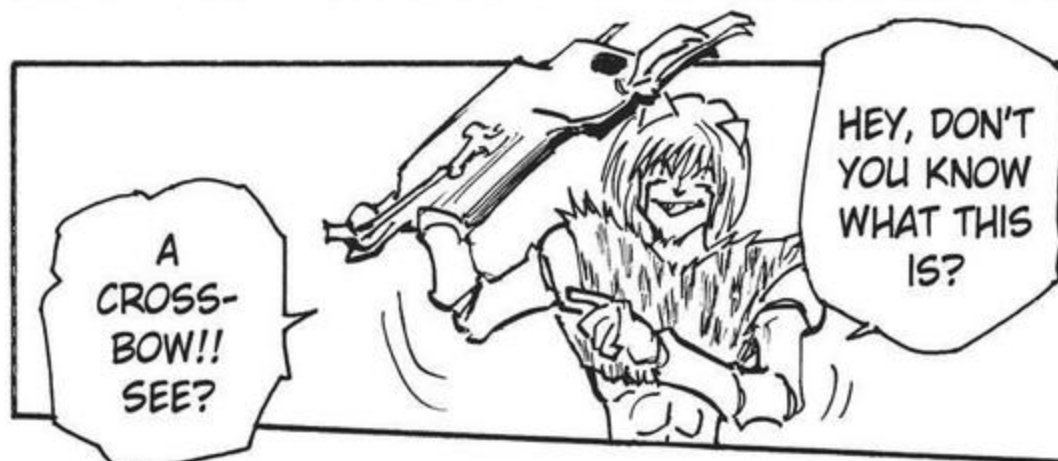
HEH...

Chapter 248: 6: Part 5



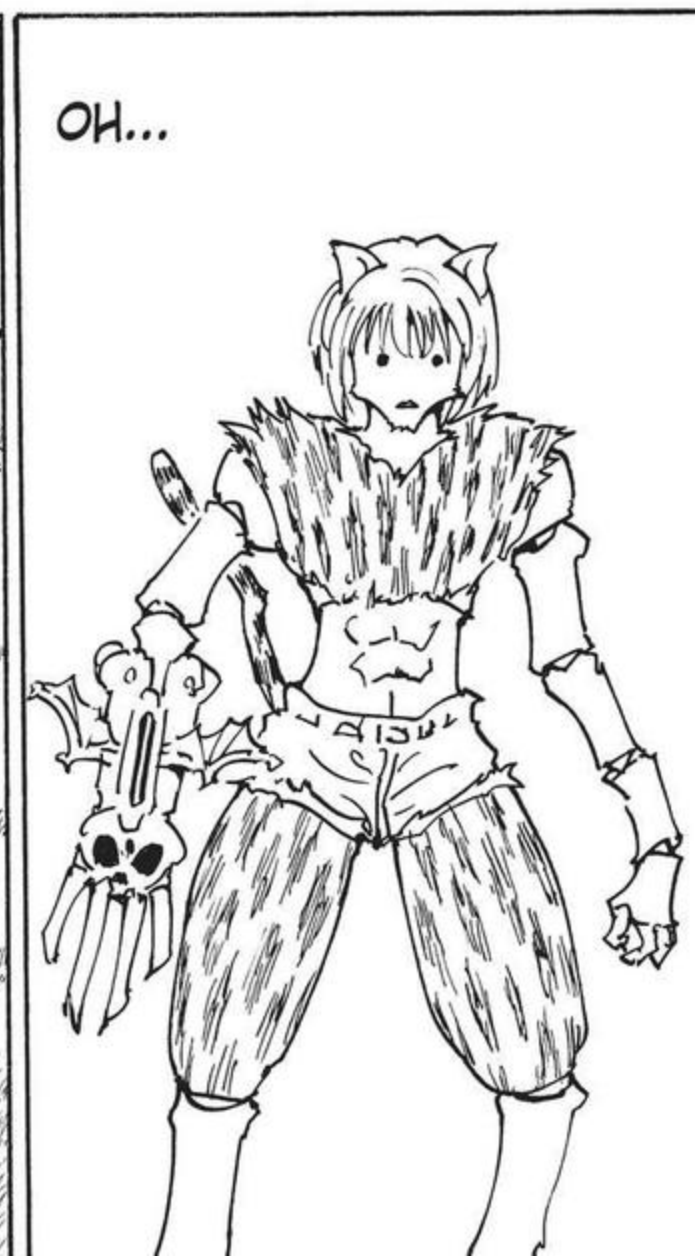
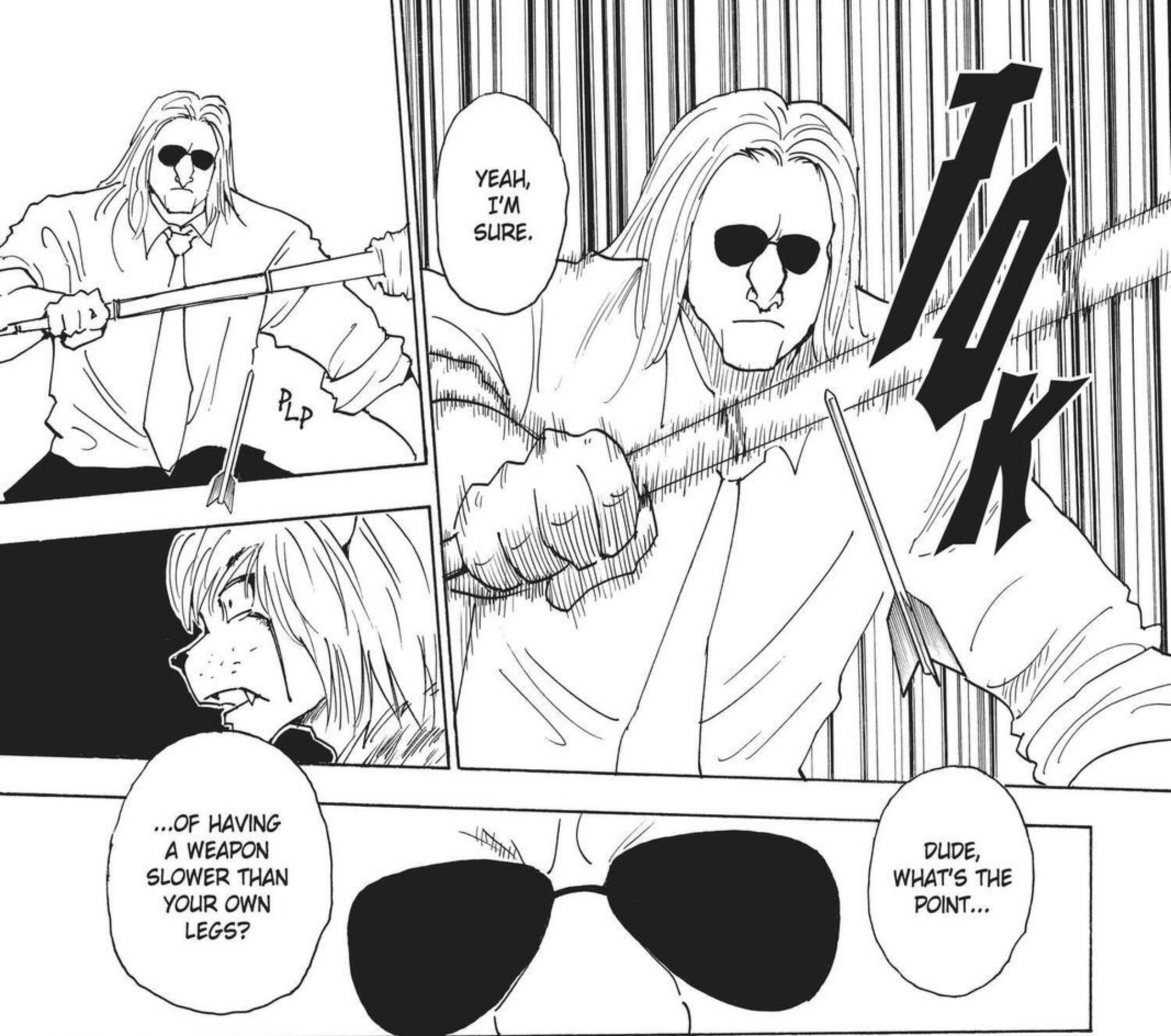
...I MADE
UP THIS
AWESOME
NEW
ABILITY!

HA HA HA,
THANKS
TO YOU...



YOU SURE
YOU WANNA
GET ANY
CLOSER?!







'CAUSE
YOU'RE A
COMPLETE
MORON.



HEH
HEH.

HEH.



SNAP

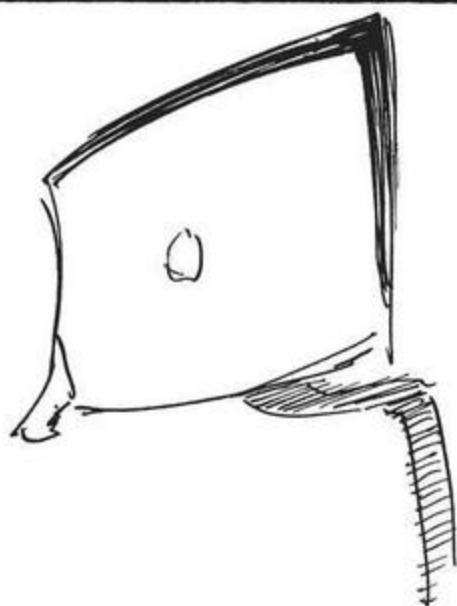


**SHUT
THE HELL
UP!!!**



...LIKE...

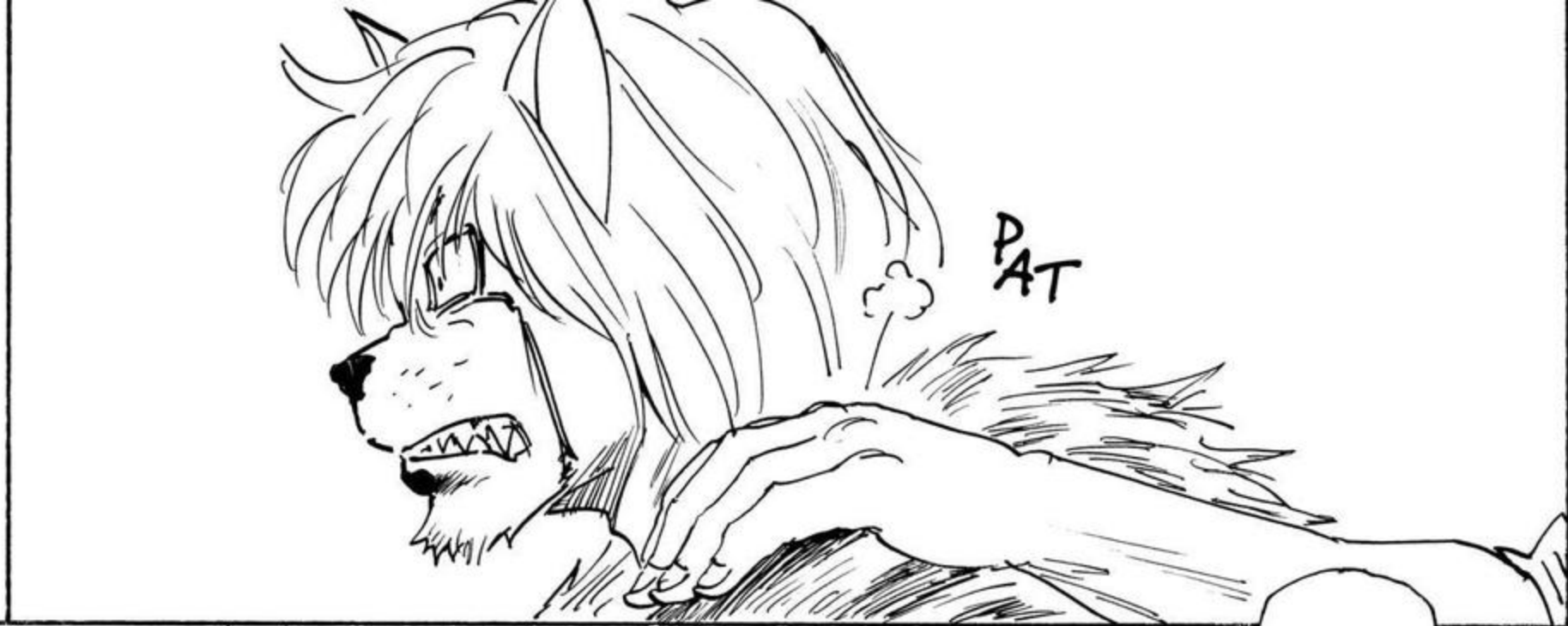
THIS
FEELS...



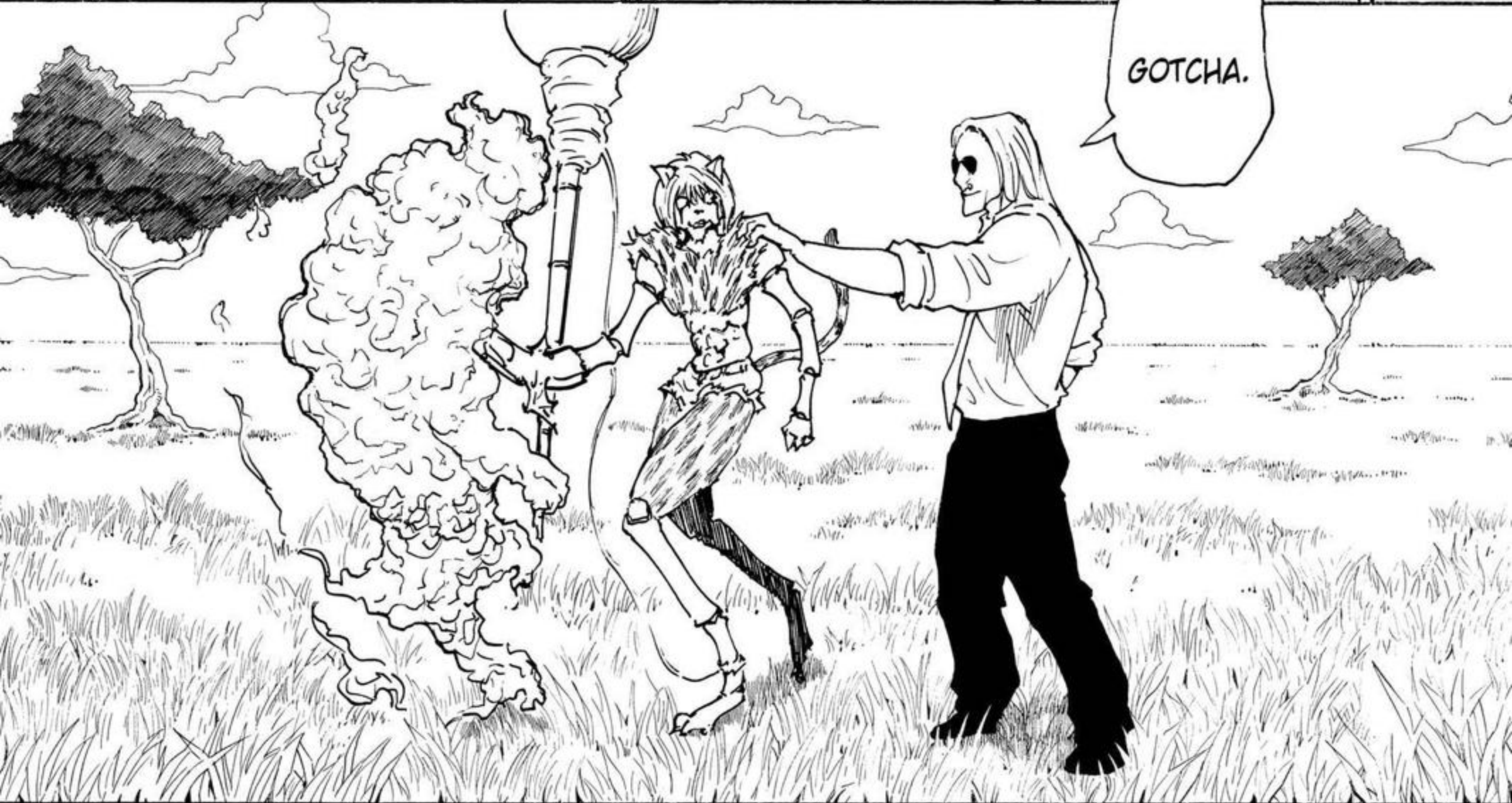
NO
WAY...



...SMOKE?!



PAT



GOTCHA.

YOU
SHOULD'VE
NEVER
TAKEN YOUR
EYES OFF
ME.



THE BATTLE
GOES ON
EVEN WHILE
YOU SLEEP.

...AND
APPROACHED
CHEETU
FROM THE
OPPOSITE
DIRECTION.



TUP
TUP

CREEP
FORWARD

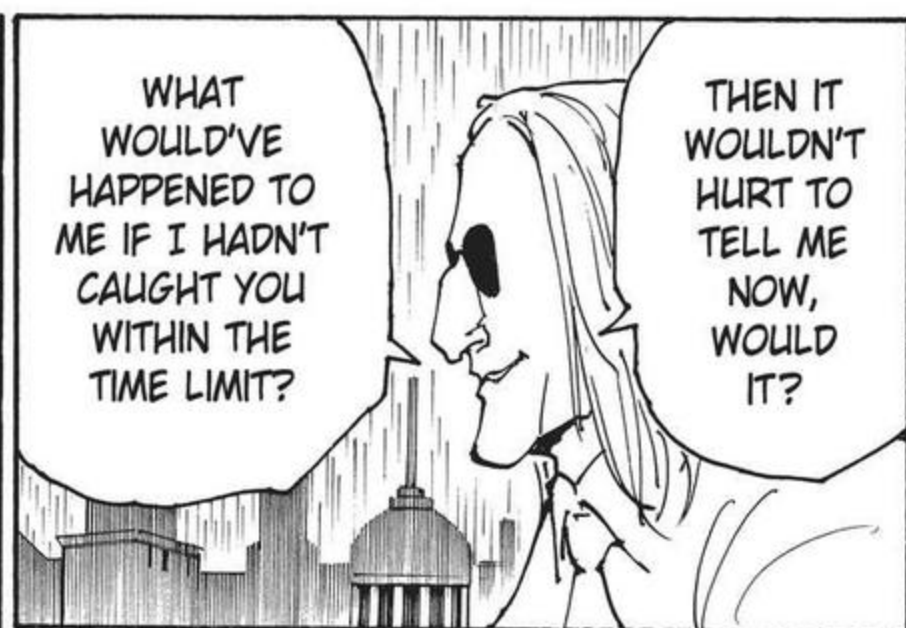
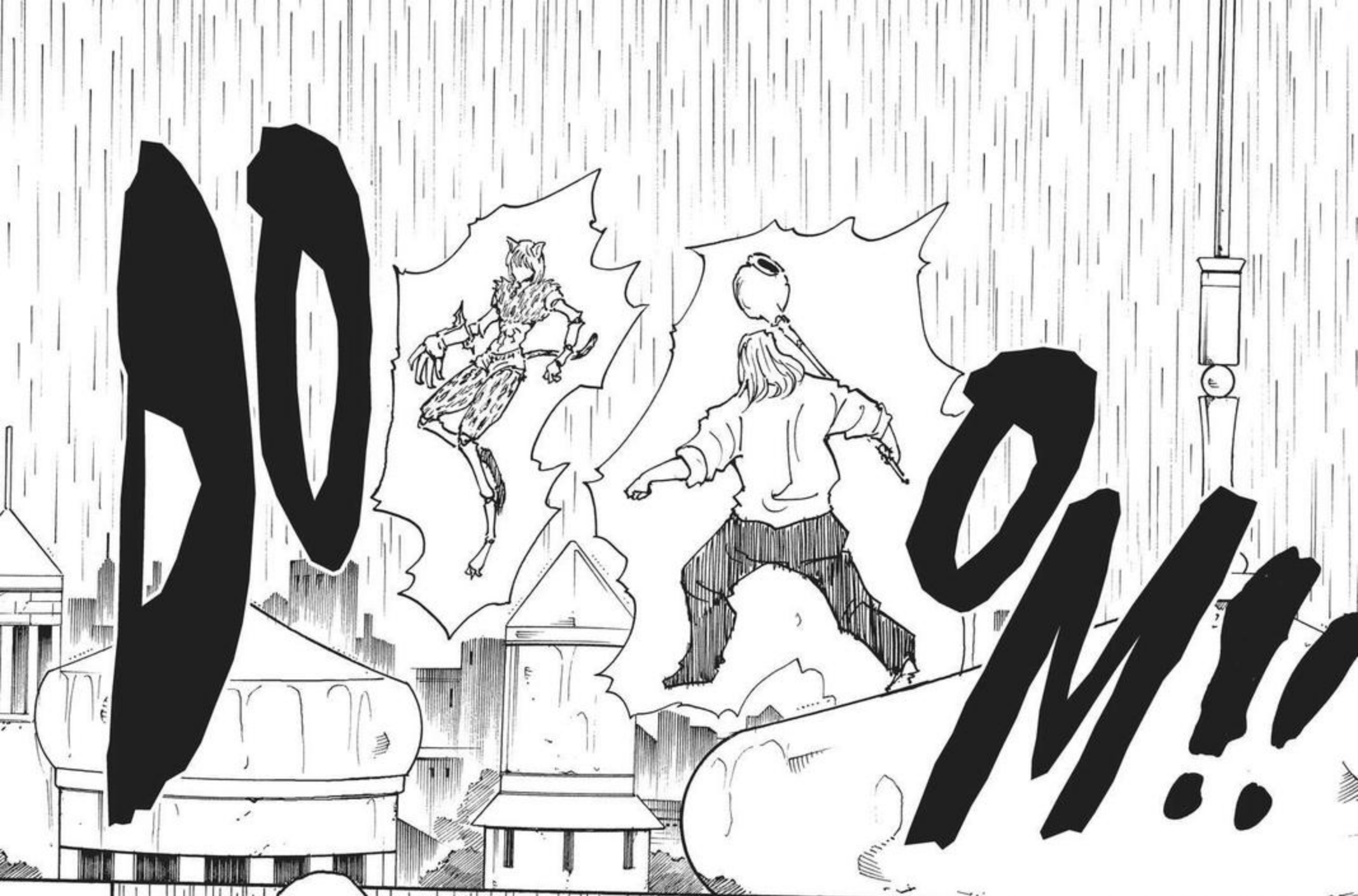


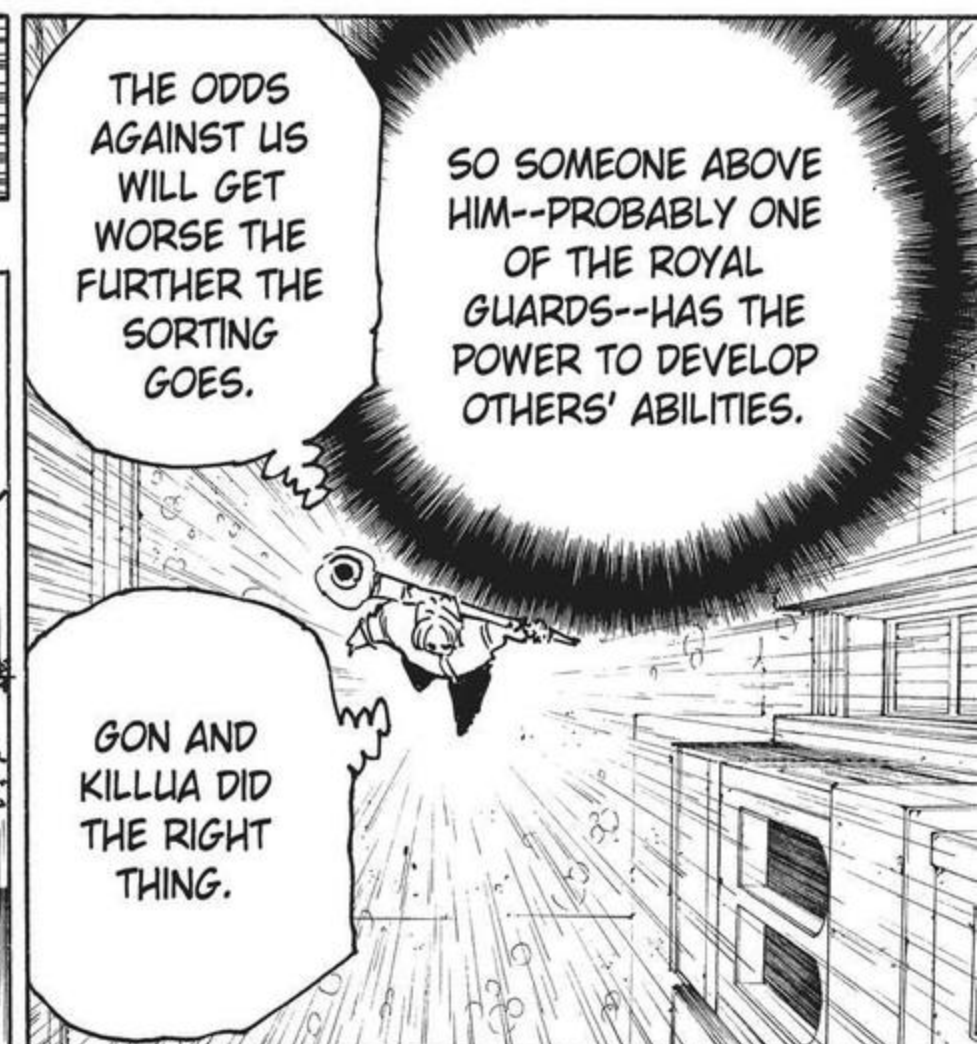
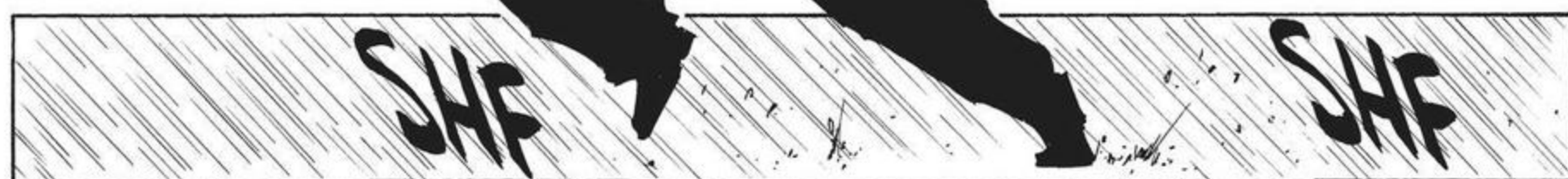
HE THEN
COVERED
HIMSELF
WITH
GRASS-
COLORED
SMOKE...

...MOREL
CREATED
A SMOKE
CLONE IN
FRONT OF
HIMSELF.



FIRST...



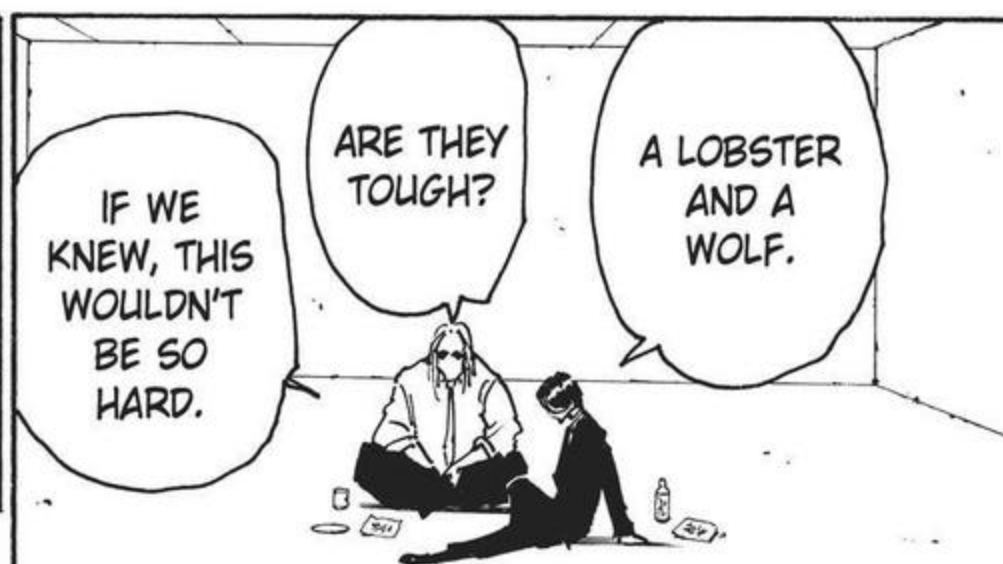




WE'VE
GOT FRESH
ANTS.



BOTH
SIDES ARE
WATCHING
AND WAITING
FOR NOW.



A LOBSTER
AND A
WOLF.

THOSE DRAGON-
FLIES WERE
WORKING AS
SURVEILLANCE
CAMERAS.



IT'S
PROBABLY
BECAUSE I
TOOK THIS
GUY OUT.

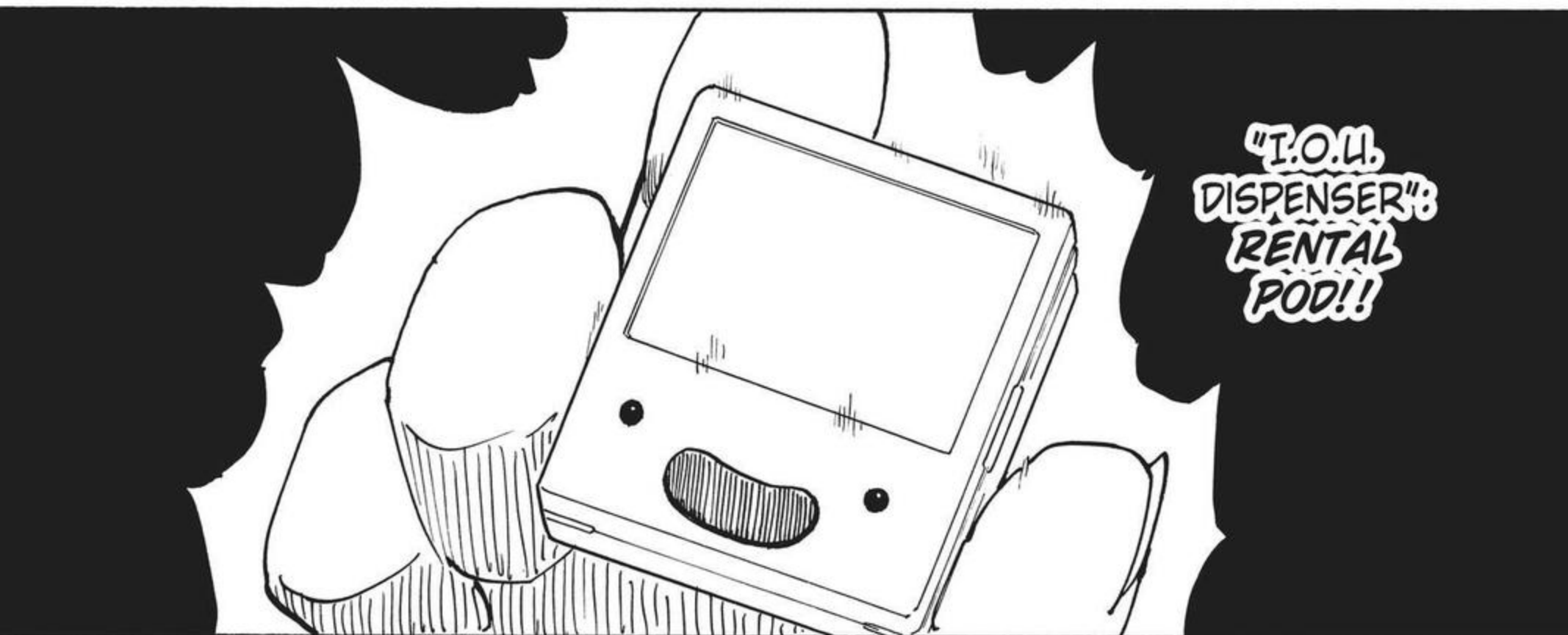
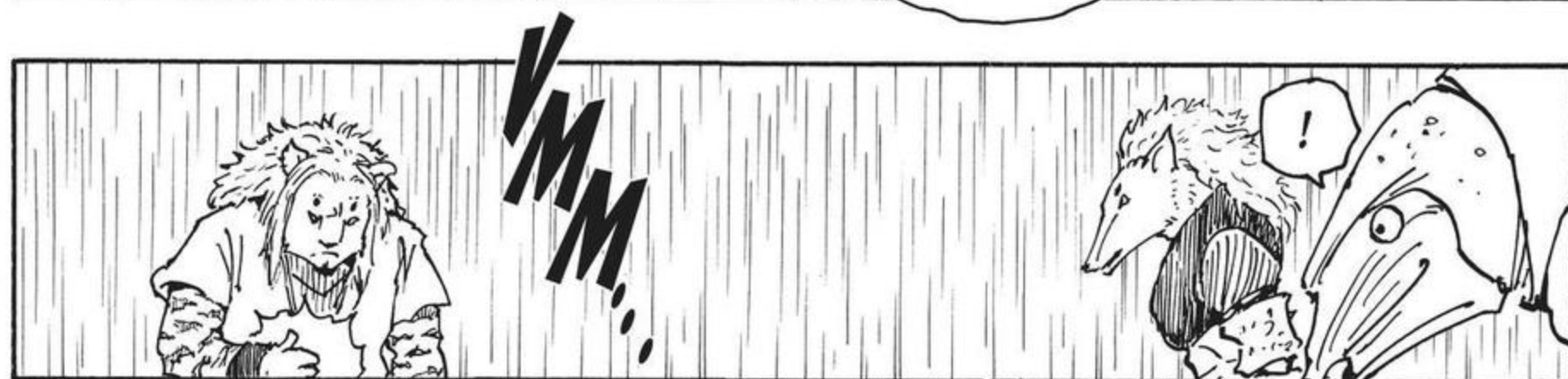


WE GOTTA
CHANGE
TACTICS.
WE CAN'T FIND
'EM WITHOUT
FLUTTER.

HE'S NOT
COMING.

FLUTTER!!
RESPOND!!





• • • •

1

W. J. 7/21

LEOL'S RENTAL POD
ENABLES HIM TO
TEMPORARILY BORROW
THE TARGETS' ABILITIES
BY PUTTING THEM IN
HIS DEBT. HE MUST
FULFILL TWO
CONDITIONS.

GOT IT!

FLUTTER'S
ALL RIGHT.

RENTAL IS FOR
ONE HOUR PER USE.
THE TARGET CANNOT
USE HIS ABILITY
DURING THIS PERIOD
(HIS BASIC NEN IS
UNAFFECTED THOUGH).

ONCE FULFILLED, THE DATA IS AUTOMATICALLY SAVED INTO THE DISPENSER WITH THE NAME, ABILITY AND NUMBER OF RENTALS RECORDED. THE DATA IS DELETED ONCE THE TARGET DIES.

HE'S NOT
RESPONDING
BECAUSE HE'S
KNOCKED OUT
OR TOO FAR
AWAY.

LOOKS
LIKE I
CAN MAKE
CONTACT
WITH HIM.

HE'S NOT
DEAD YET
ANYWAY.



THE ABILITY
IS ACTIVATED
BY TAKING
THE ISSUED
TICKET...

ZZP P P

FSSH

...AND
RIPPING IT
UP!!

RIP

THEY'RE
HERE.

NOT UNTIL
I MAKE
THE KING
OWE ME
ONE!!

BEGIN THE
SEARCH.

IT
SHOULD
BE AN
UNBEARABLE
INDIGNITY!!

MY RHYTHM
IS THE ONE
DISRUPTED.

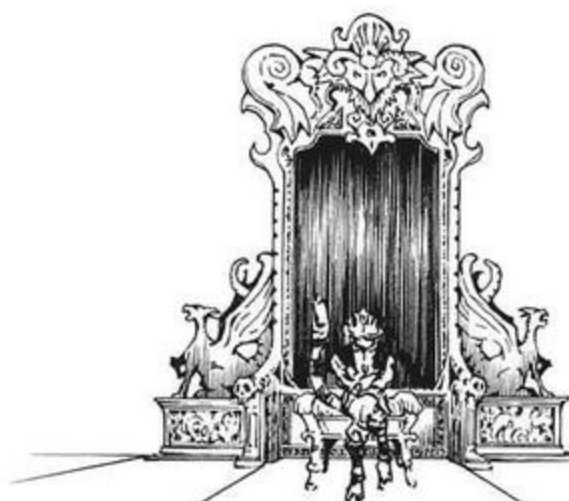


I DO NOT
KNOW
WHY...



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND,
AND I DON'T
LIKE IT.

WHY?



...YET I
ENJOY IT AT
THE SAME
TIME...!

I FIND MYSELF
FRUSTRATED...

BUT...



I FIND IT
EXTREMELY
VEXING!!

WELL
...

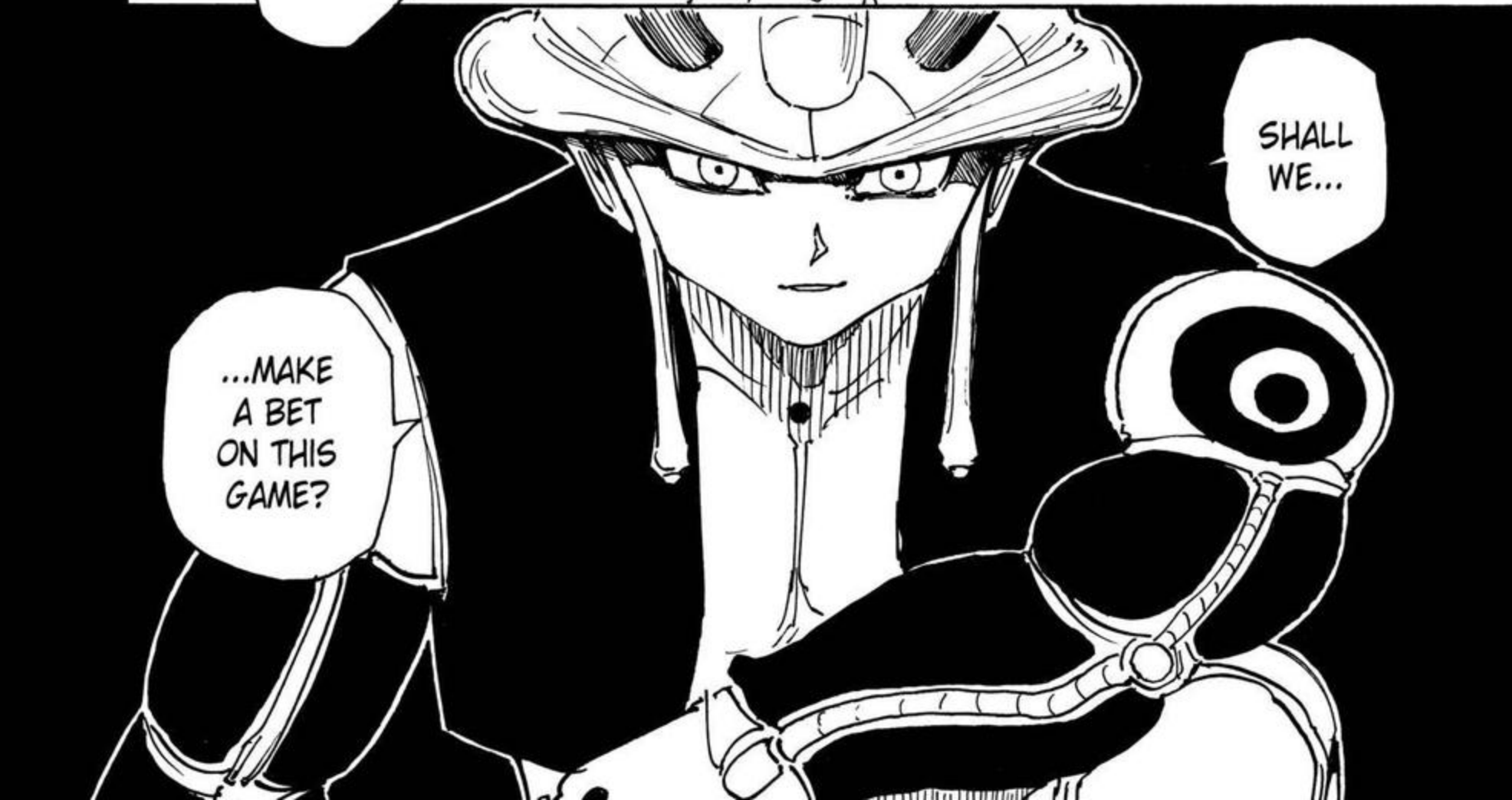
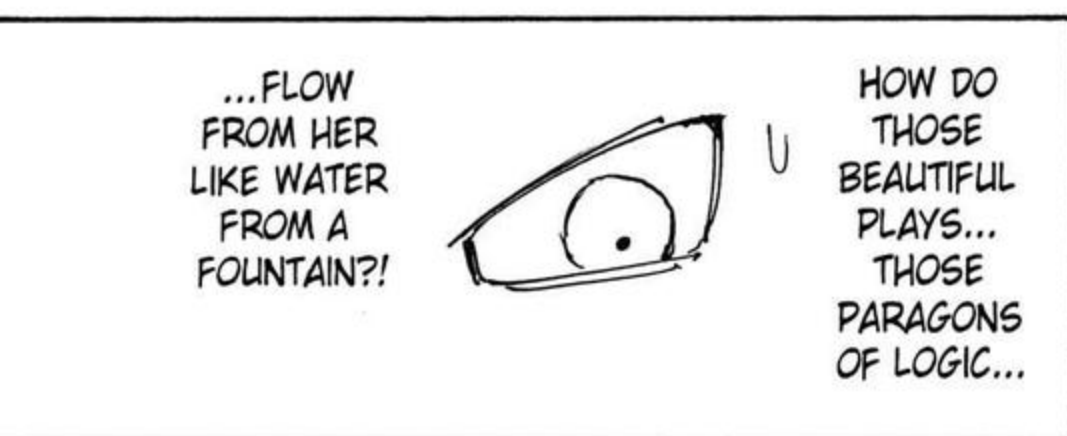


DID
SHE NOT
REST?



?!

MY SKILL
IN SELF-
ANALYSIS
IS NOT
YET
REFINED.

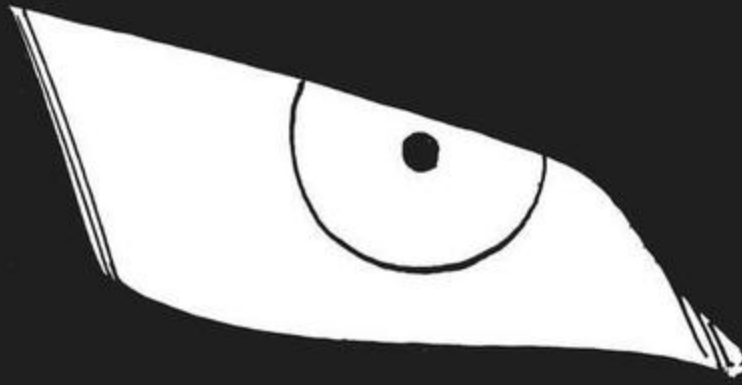








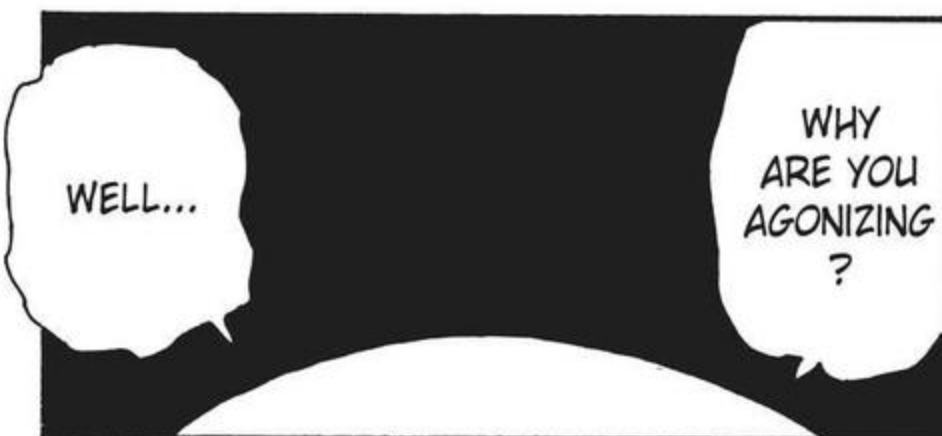
...DISRUPT
HUMAN
RHYTHM.



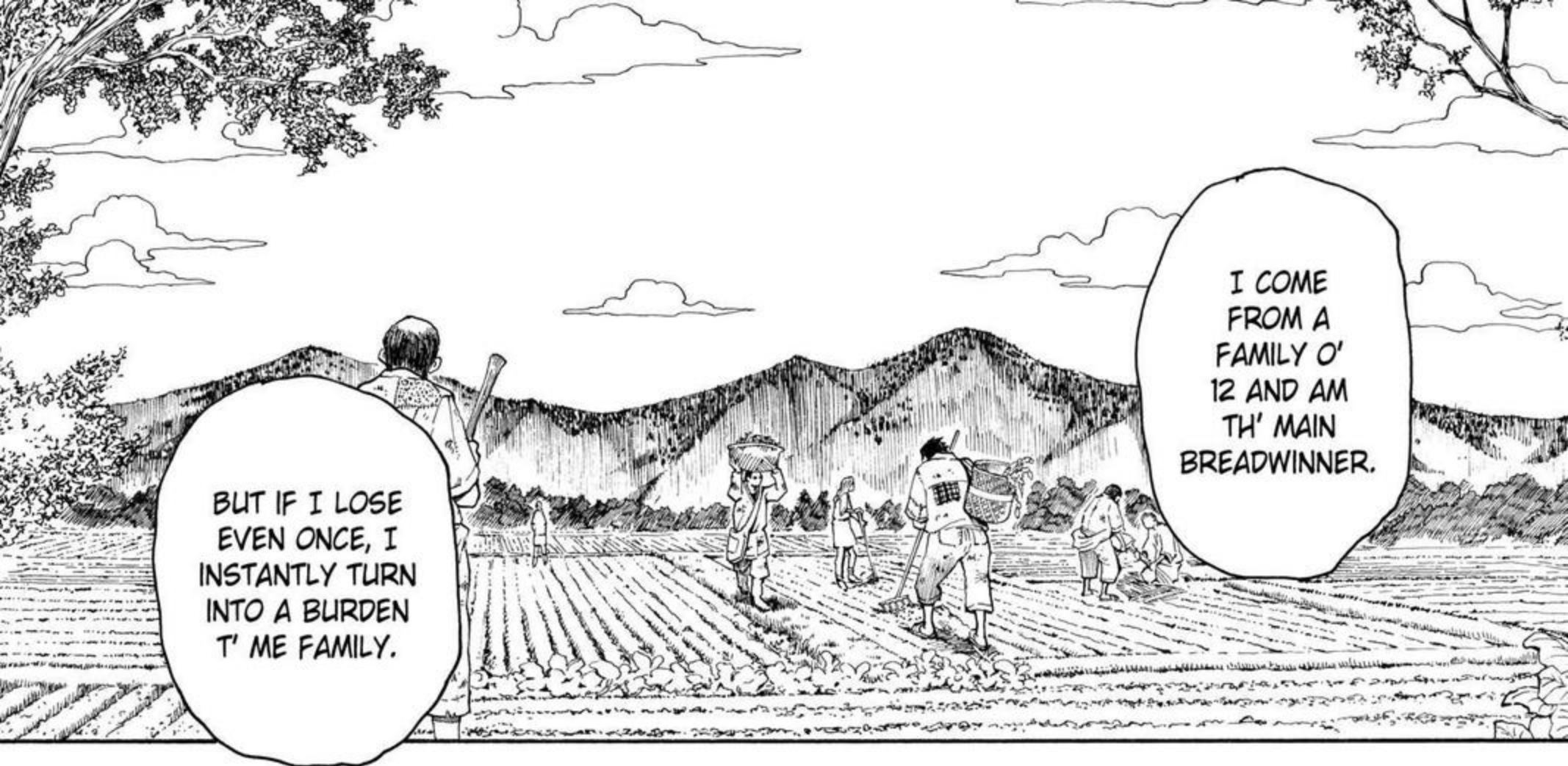
GREED
AND
FEAR...



GREED WILL
CLOUD THE
EYES AND
FEAR WILL
SHRINK
COURAGE.







BUT IF I LOSE
EVEN ONCE, I
INSTANTLY TURN
INTO A BURDEN
T' ME FAMILY.

I COME
FROM A
FAMILY O'
12 AND AM
TH' MAIN
BREADWINNER.



I'M
WORTH-
LESS.

IF I
LOSE...



...THA' "A
GUNGI KING
IS A MERE
MORTAL ONCE
HE'S LOST."

THERE'S
A SAYING
AMONG
PLAYERS...



IT'S
SOMETHING
ME PARENTS
ALWAYS
TOLD ME.

OH, IT'S
OKAY.

...



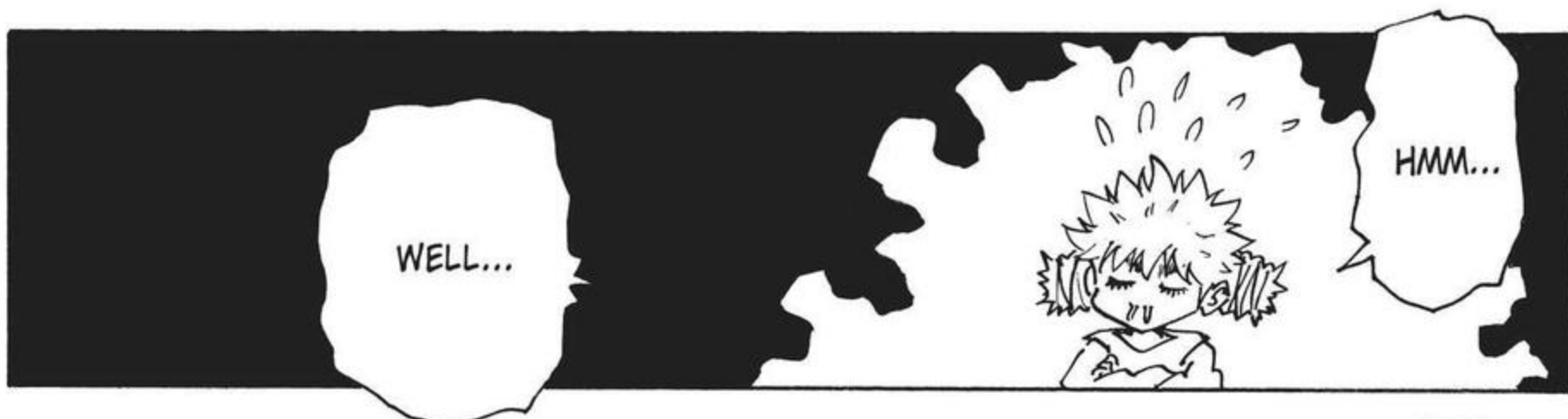
...THA' I
WOULD
FORFEIT ME
LIFE IF I
EVER LOST
AT GUNGI.

SO I DECIDED
TH' DAY I
BECAME A
PRO...



WHICH
IS...?

BUT THEN
THA' CAUSES
A PROBLEM...



IT SEEMS I
WAS THE ONE
NOT TAKING
THIS SERIOUSLY
ENOUGH.

YOUR
LIFE, YOU
SAY...

**I WOULD
NE'ER!!**

**G-GOD
FORBID,
SUH!!**

YOUR
LIFE...

I KNOW.

THIS IS A
PERSONAL
MATTER.

...THAT
YOU MIGHT
CHOOSE MY
OWN LIFE
AS YOUR
REWARD.

I NEVER
CONSIDER-
ED...

SILENCE.

SIRE.

THAT WAS
IMPRUDENT
OF ME.

NO MORE
BETTING.

OH, I'S
NOT...

SPLCH



IT'S YOUR
TURN.
PLAY.

WHA'
'APPENED?!

WHA'?
WHA'?



I'LL KEEP
PLAYING.

WE MUST
ATTEND TO
IT, PLEASE
COME...!!



...BREAK
YOUR OWN
ARM?!

D-DID
YOU...



ALLOW
ME TO
STOP THE
BLEEDING!

SIRE!!









WHY
YOU...

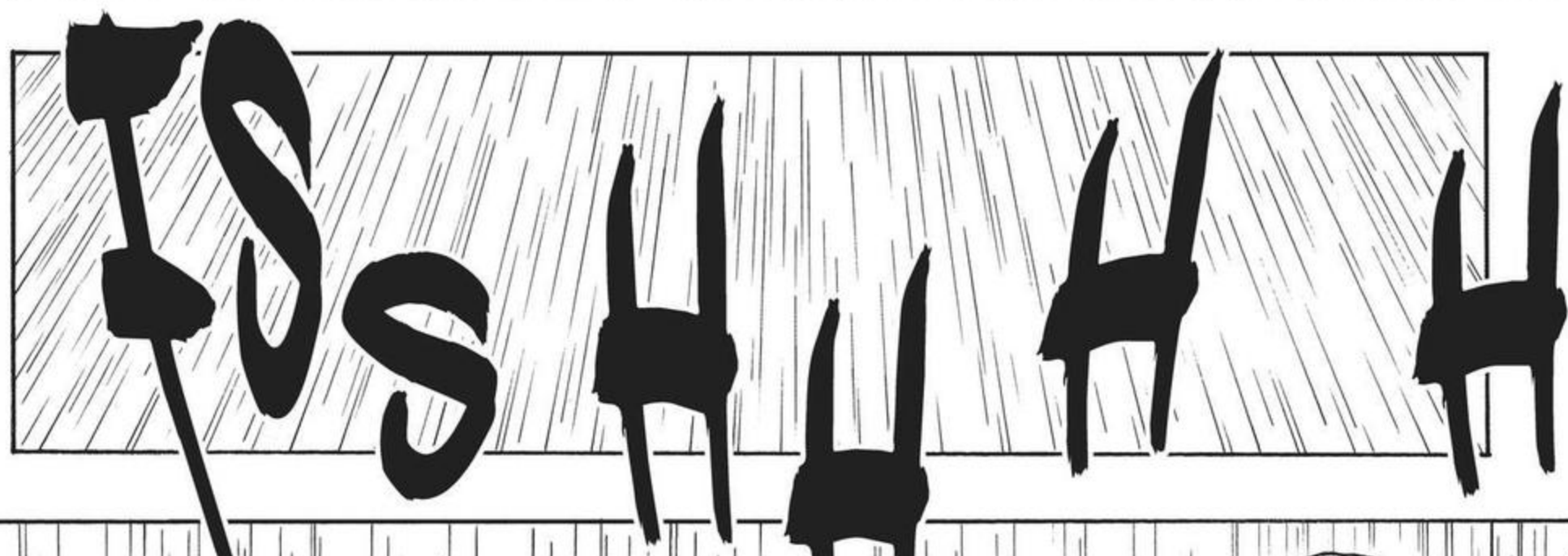


KILL
ME IN
GUNGI!!



YES
SIR!

CALL
PITOU
!!



THERE'S
NO DOUBT
ABOUT IT!

ALL THE
PUPPETS
ARE GONE!



...PERHAPS
TO THE KING
HIMSELF!!

WE SHOULD
ASSUME
SOMETHING
SERIOUS
HAPPENED...



THAT
SEEMS
UNLIKELY.

NO.

DID
THEY GO
BACK TO
SORTING?



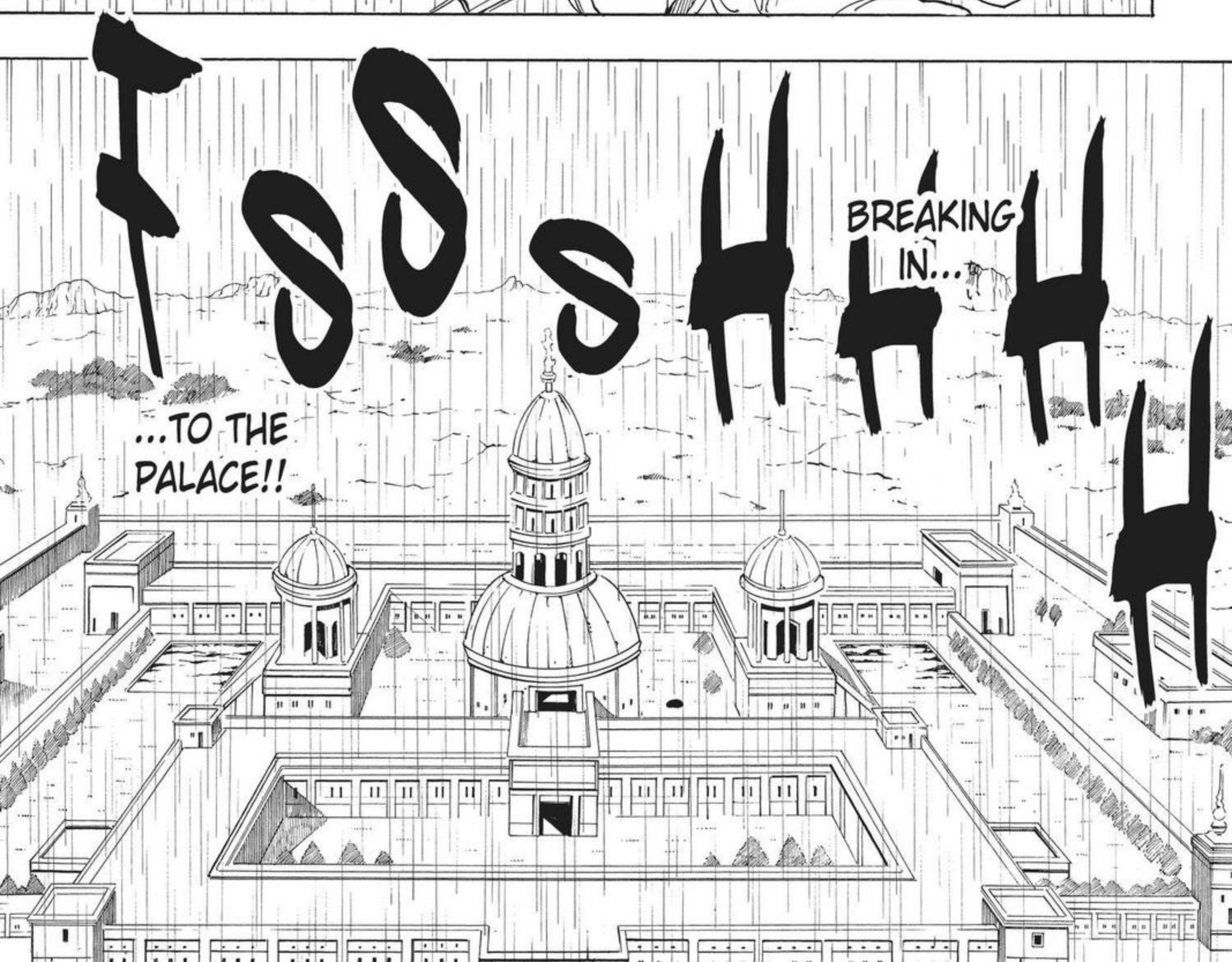
THE ROYAL
GUARDS
WOULDN'T DO
THAT IF THE
KING'S SAFETY
WAS THEIR TOP
PRIORITY.

WE STILL
HAVE THE
CAPITAL
SURROUNDED.



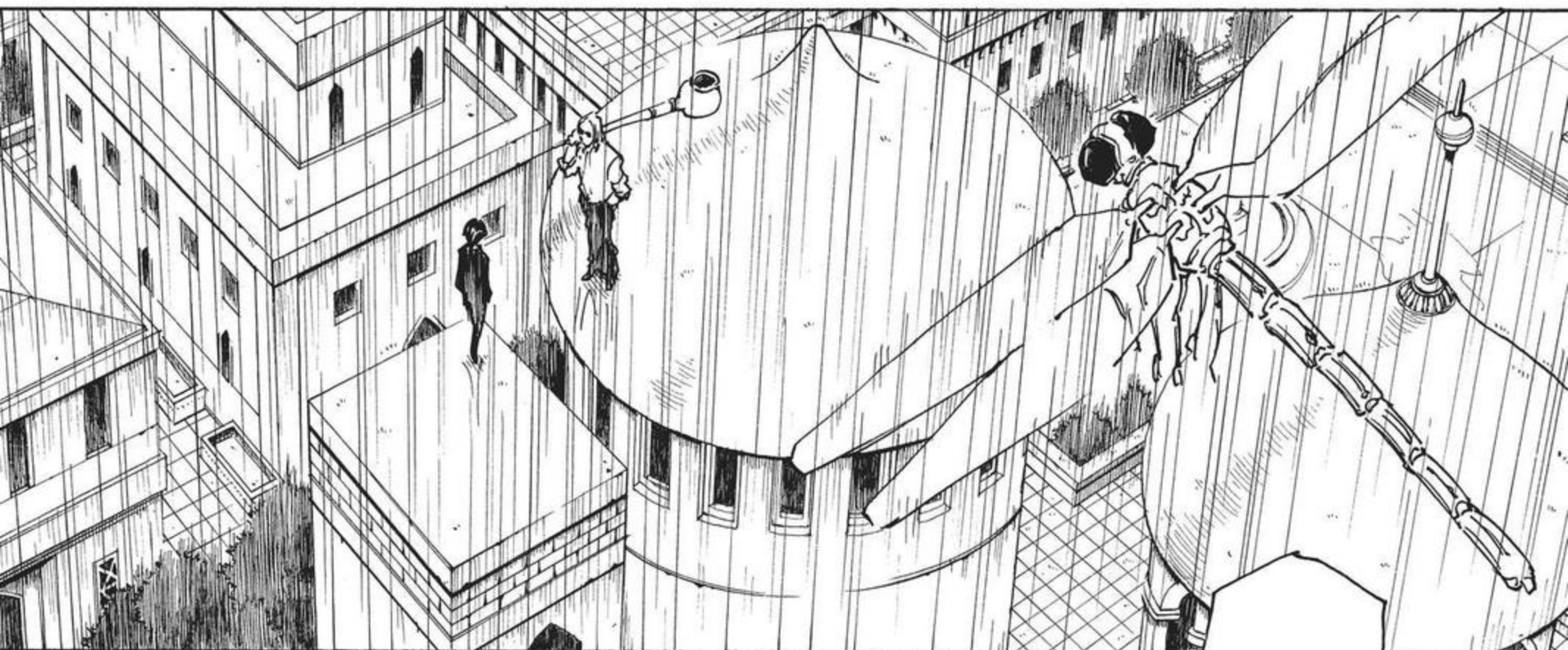
ONE THAT
WE MIGHT
NEVER GET
AGAIN!!

OUR CHANCE
HAS FINALLY
COME...



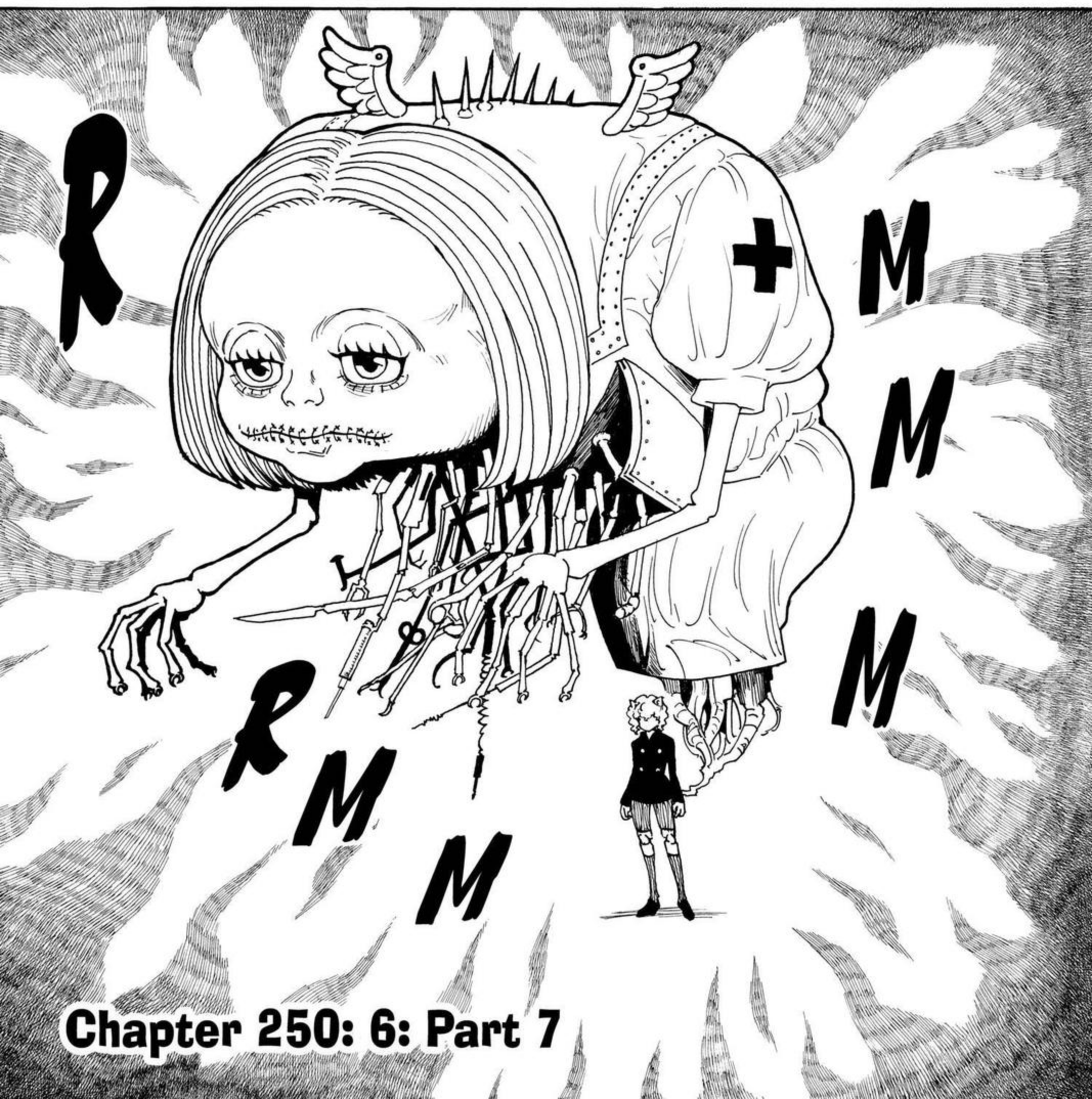
BREAKING
IN...

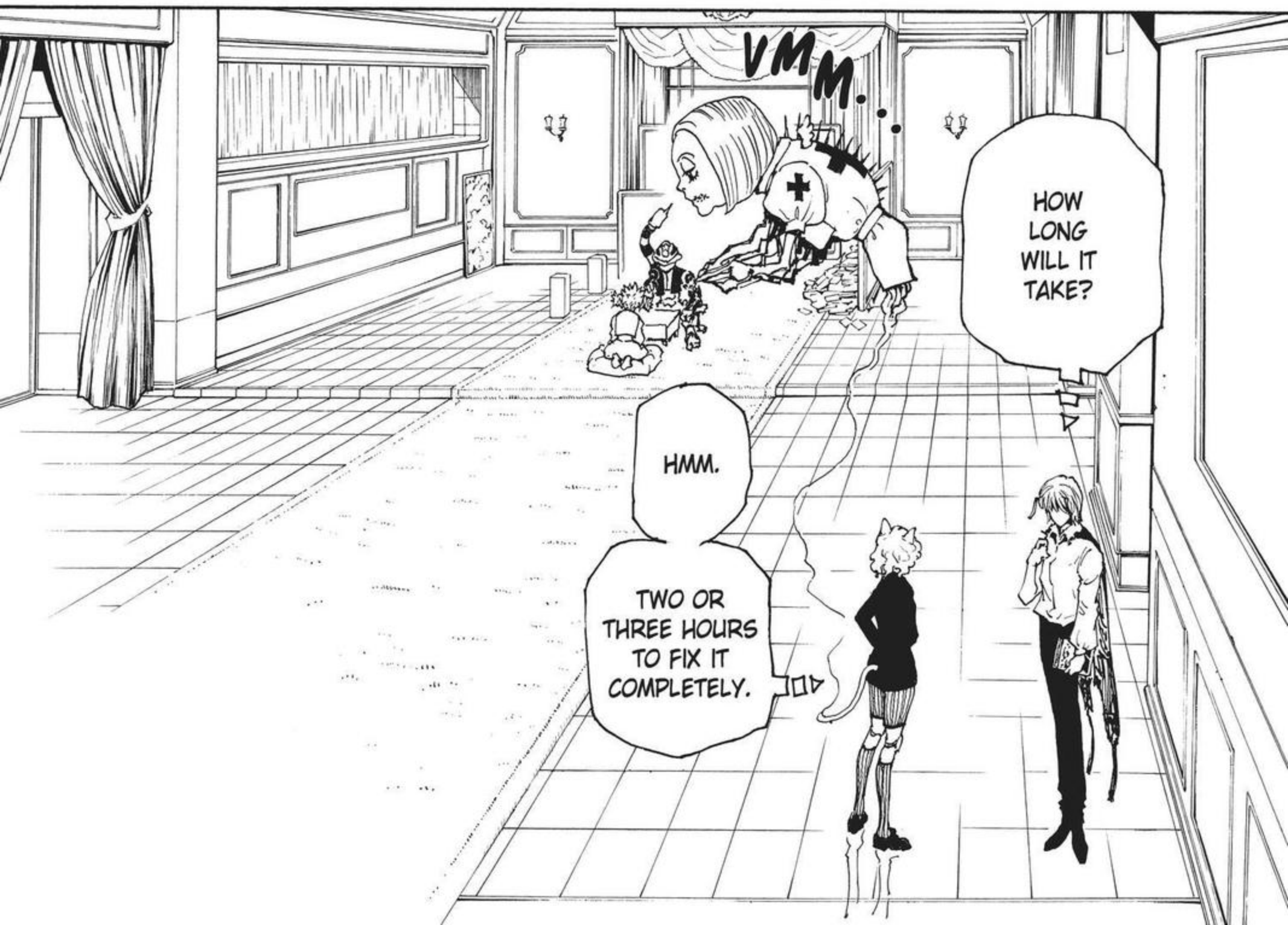
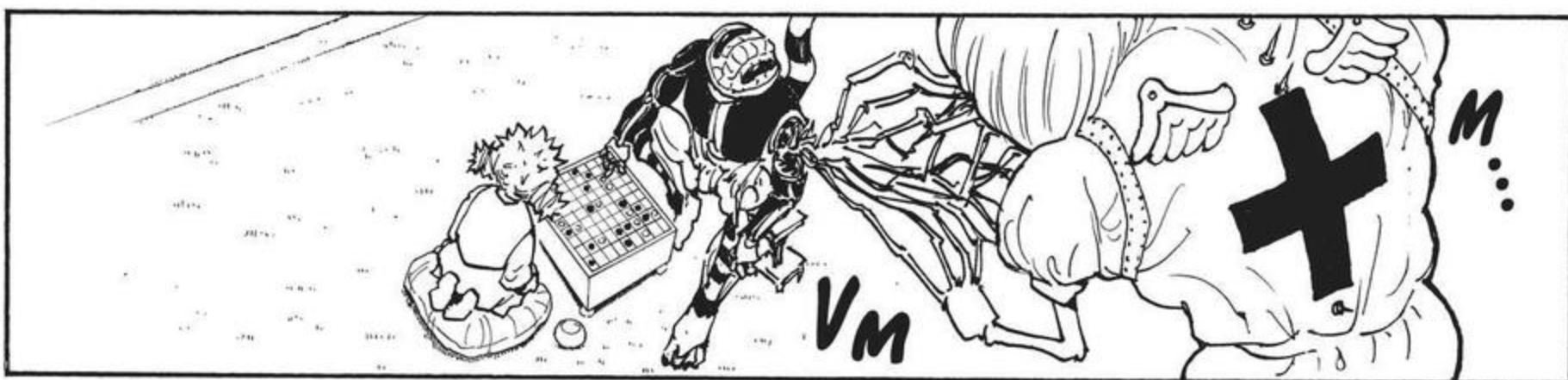
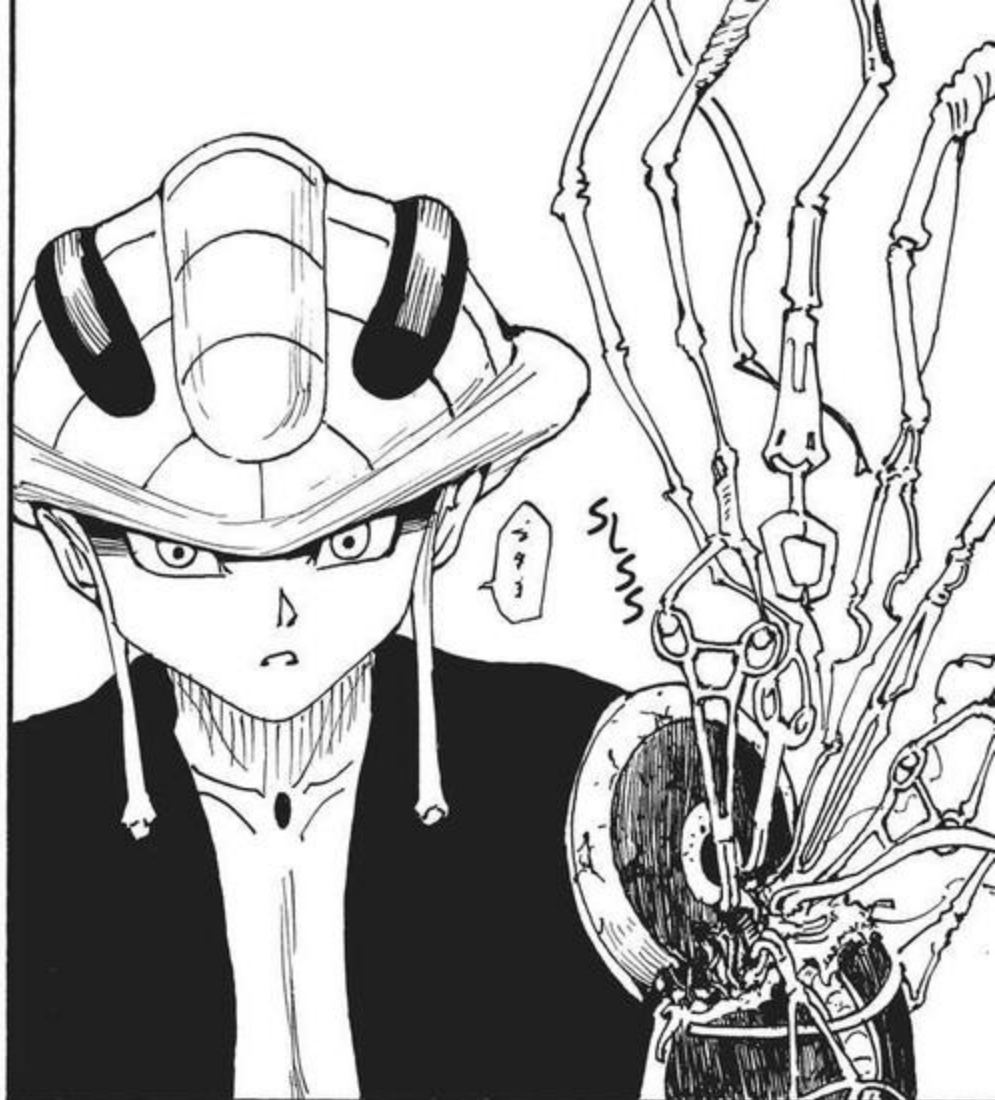
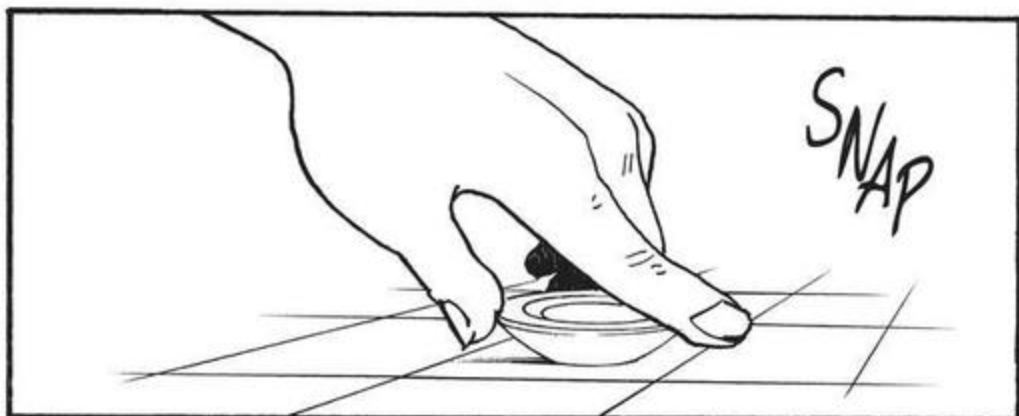
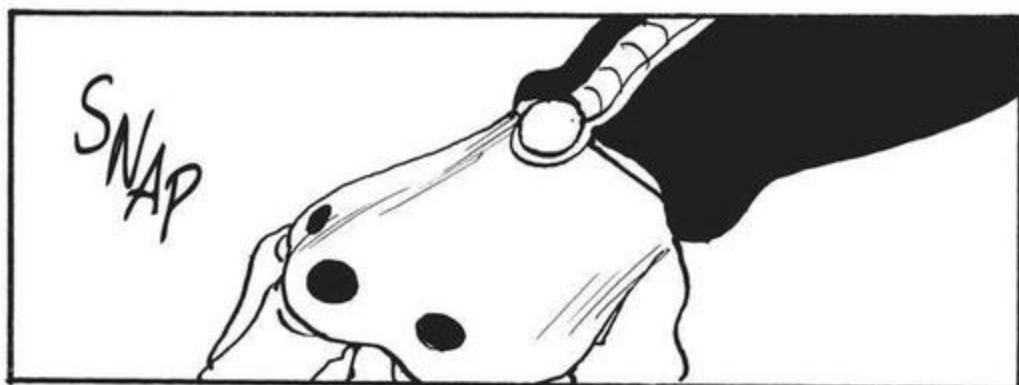
...TO THE
PALACE!!











ISSHHH

MY EN IS
NOWHERE
NEAR
YOURS...

BUT THIS
IS TOO
IMPORTANT TO
LEAVE TO
ANYBODY
ELSE.

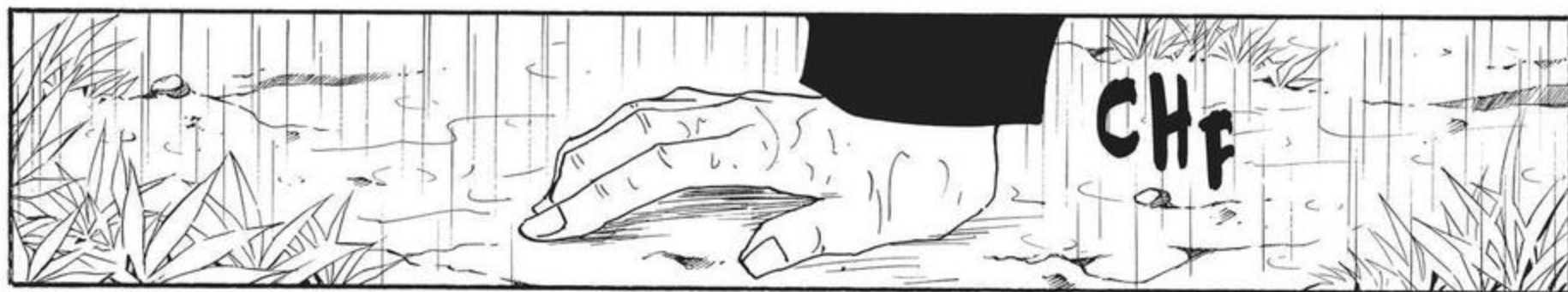
THIS ABILITY
HAS REALLY
POOR
MILEAGE.

NYAH.

AND YOU
CAN'T USE
THE PUPPETS
OR EN IN THE
MEAN TIME?

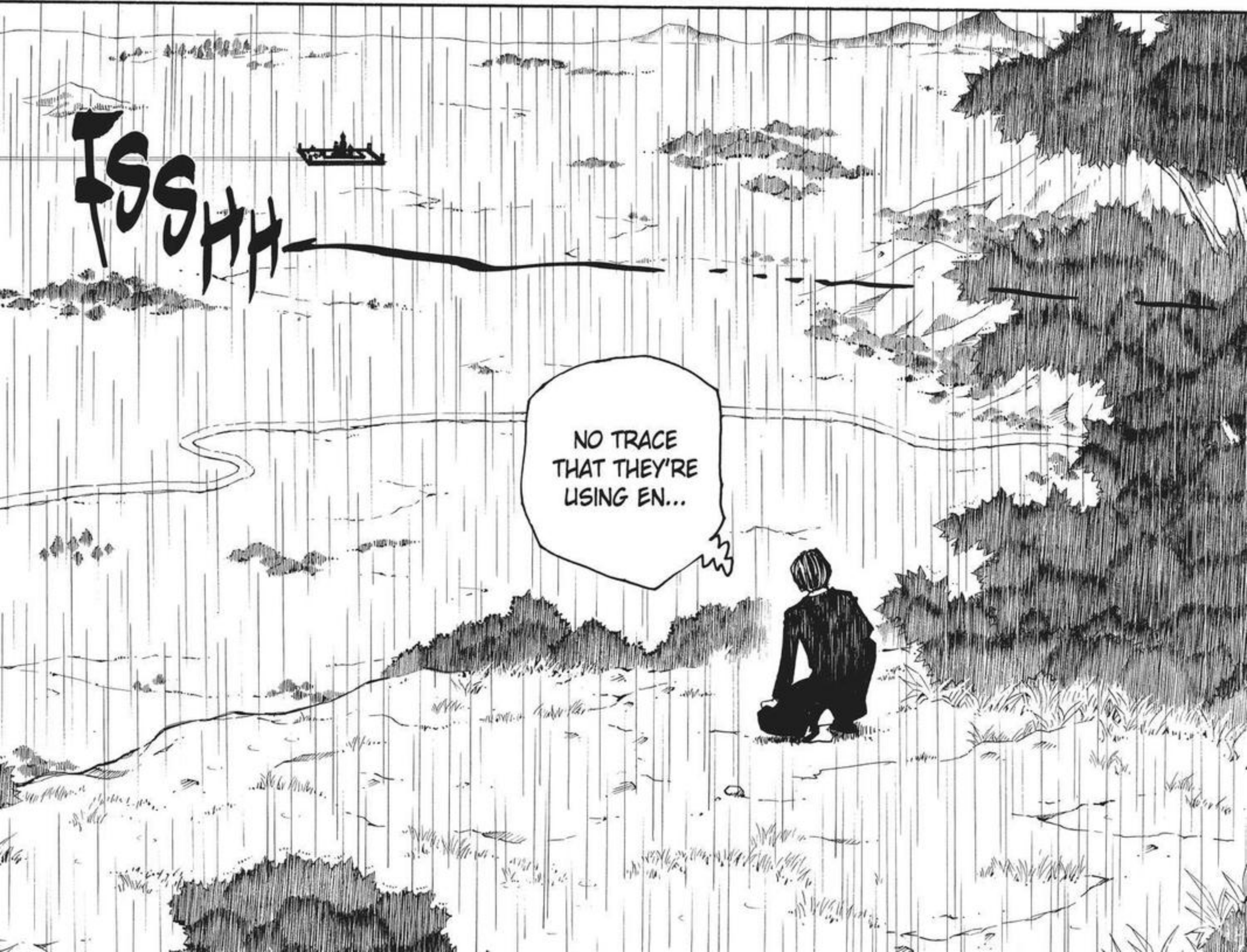
I WILL
BE THE
LOOKOUT
DURING THE
PROCEDURE.

SINCE IT
REQUIRES
A LOT OF
YOUR
ENERGY...



ISSHH

NO TRACE
THAT THEY'RE
USING EN...





I MUST BE CAREFUL.



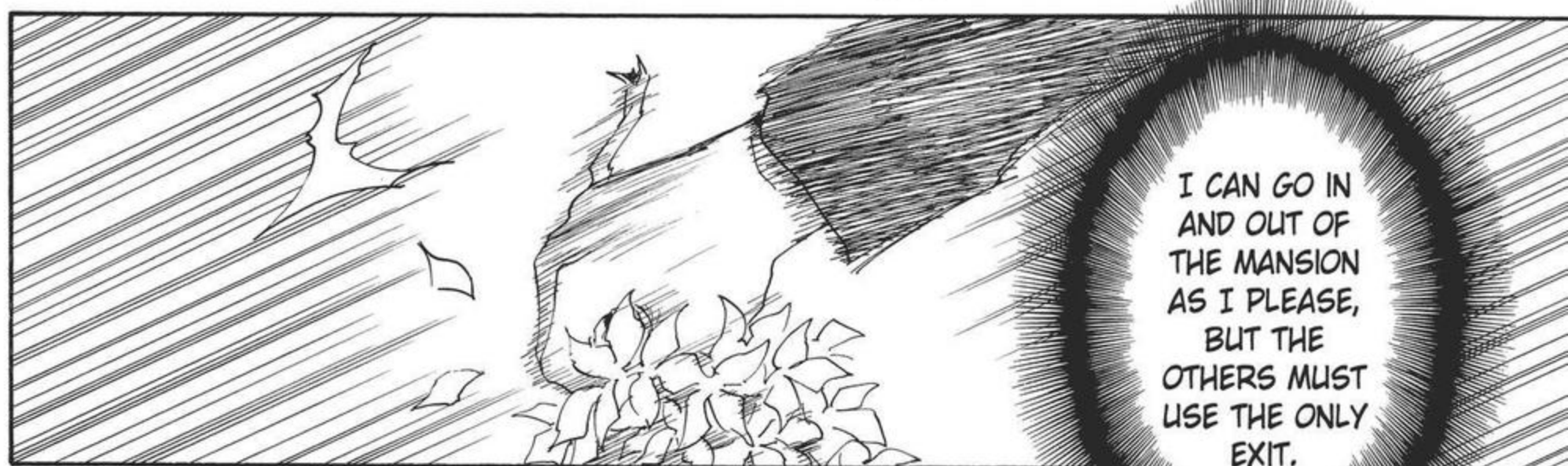
IT'S POINTLESS IF I'M CAUGHT.



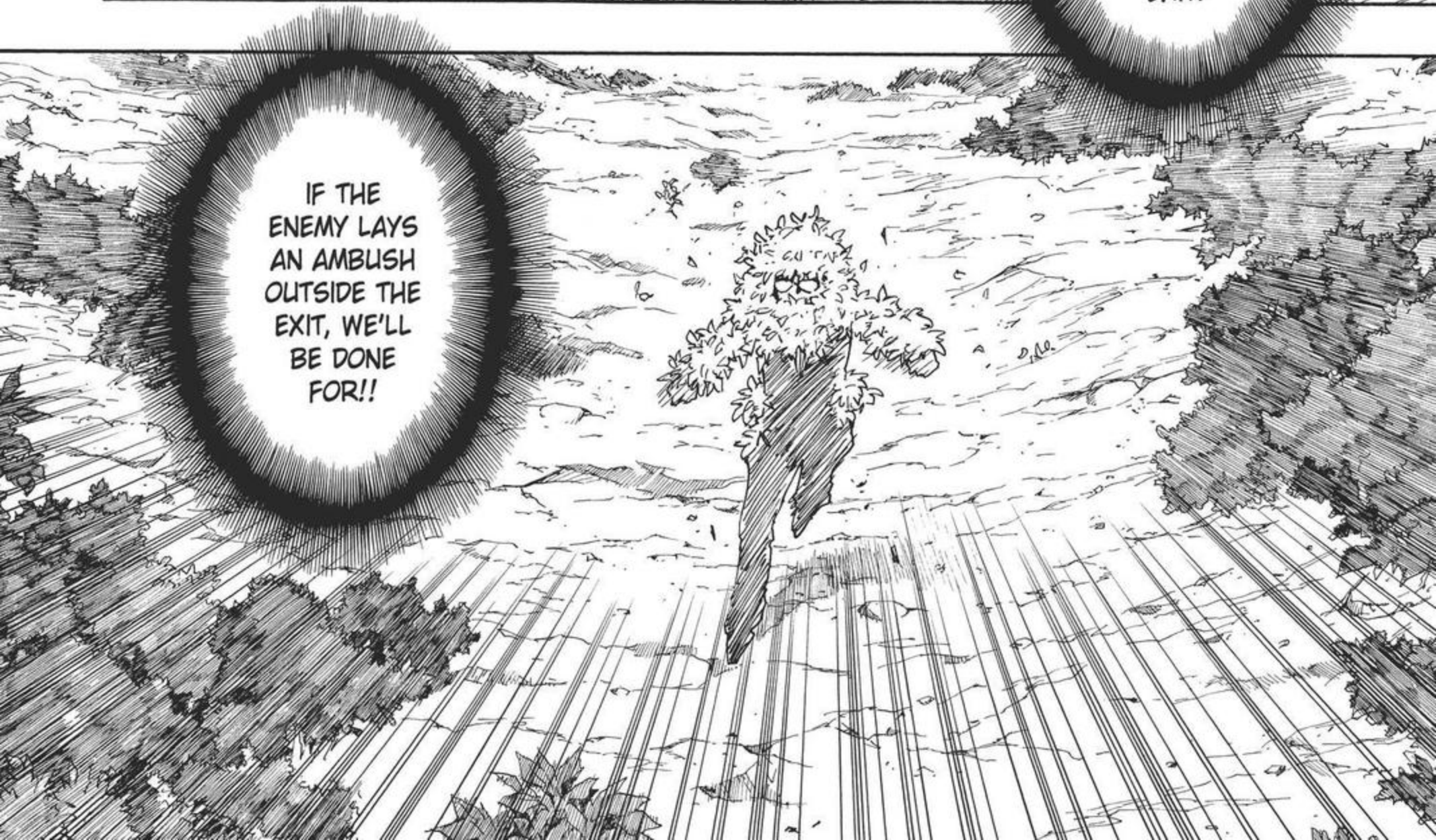
THE SUN WILL SET SOON.

LUCKILY THE RAIN MAKES FOR LOW VISIBILITY.

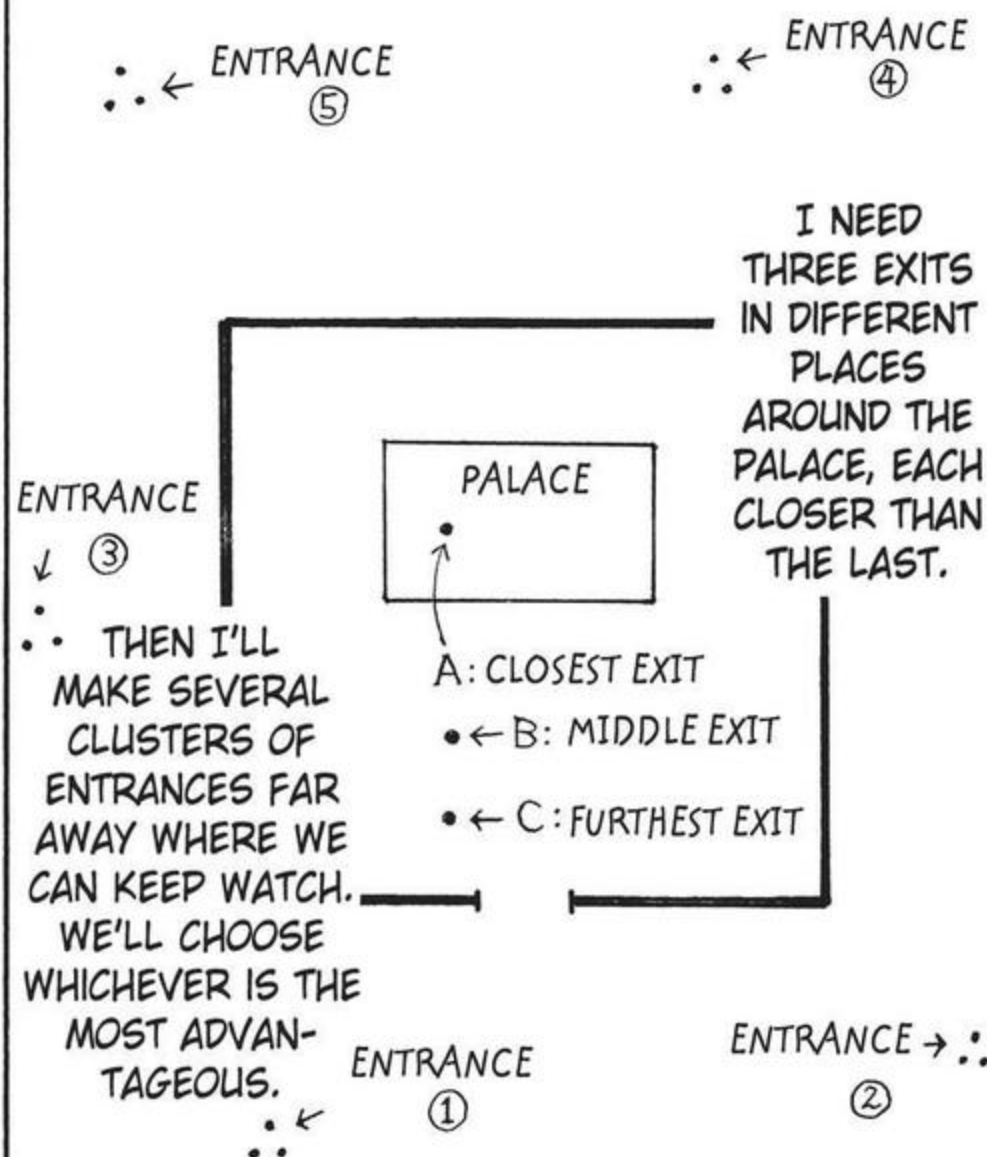
WHEN IT GETS DARK, I WILL BECOME ONE WITH THE NIGHT AND ENEMY AURA WILL SEEM EVEN BRIGHTER.



I CAN GO IN AND OUT OF THE MANSION AS I PLEASE, BUT THE OTHERS MUST USE THE ONLY EXIT.

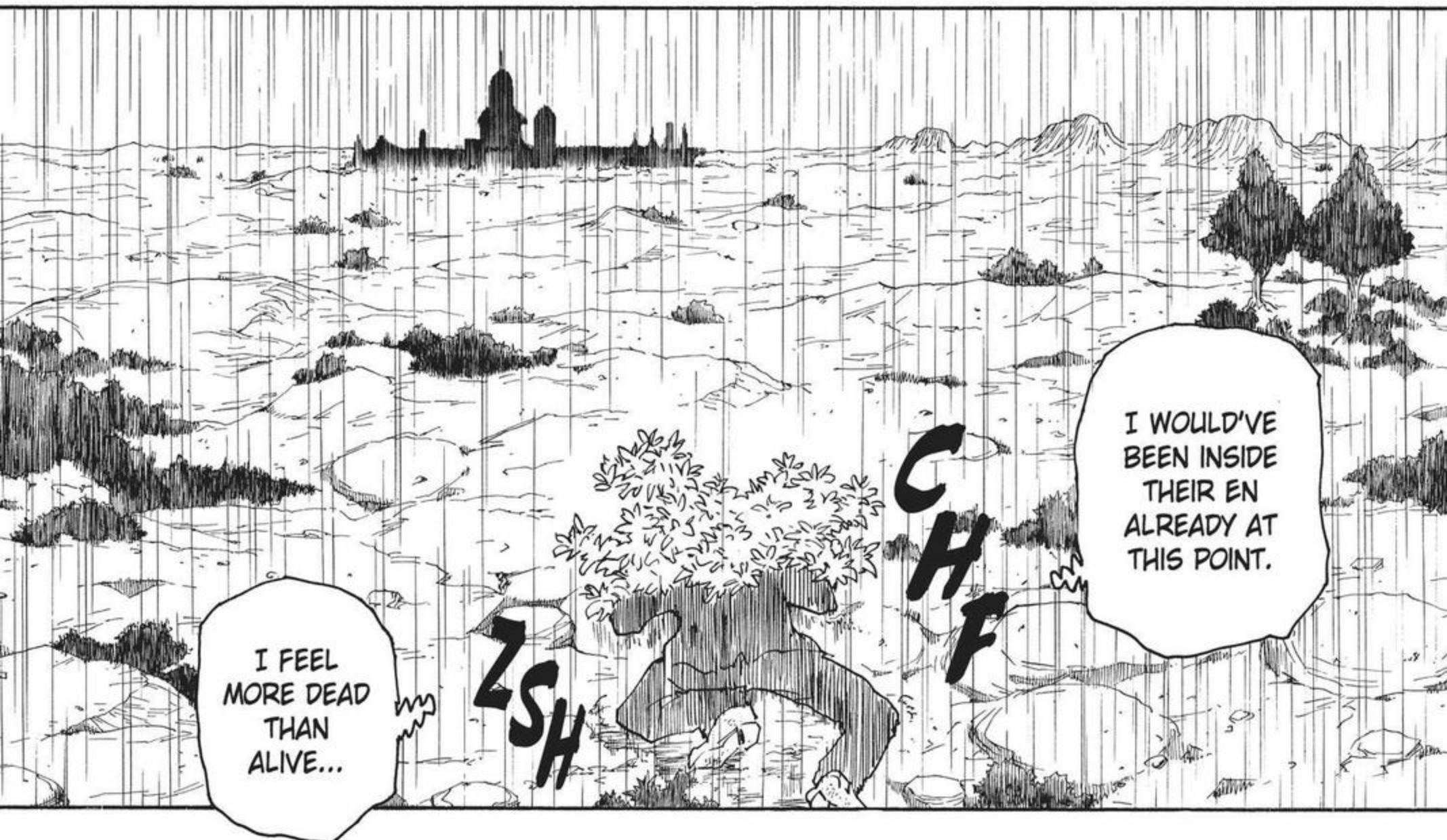


IF THE ENEMY LAYS AN AMBUSH OUTSIDE THE EXIT, WE'LL BE DONE FOR!!



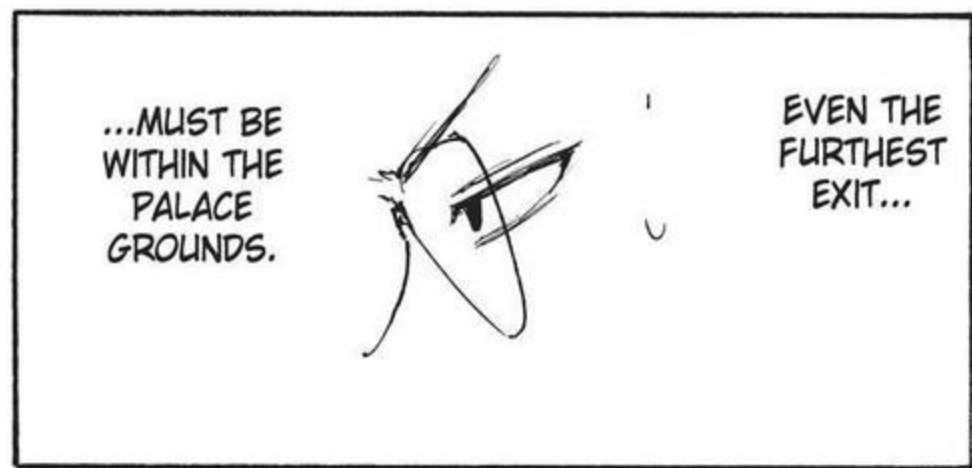


F S S H H H H



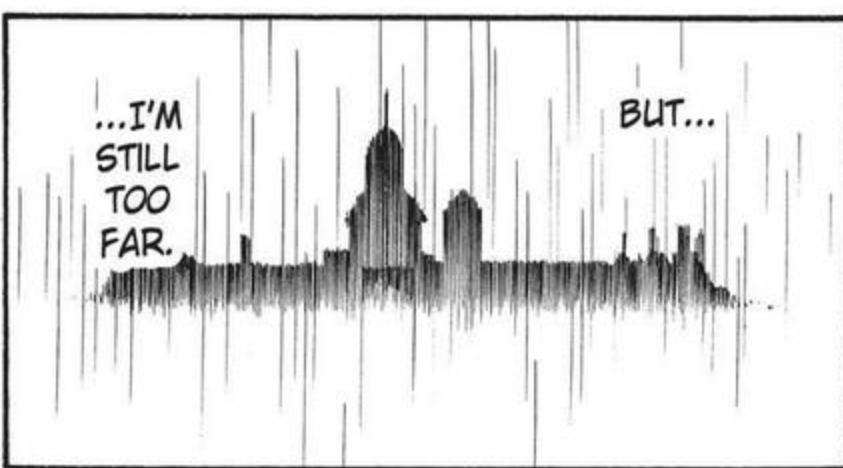
I FEEL
MORE DEAD
THAN
ALIVE...

I WOULD'VE
BEEN INSIDE
THEIR EN
ALREADY AT
THIS POINT.



...MUST BE
WITHIN THE
PALACE
GROUNDS.

EVEN THE
FURTHEST
EXIT...



...I'M
STILL
TOO
FAR.

BUT...



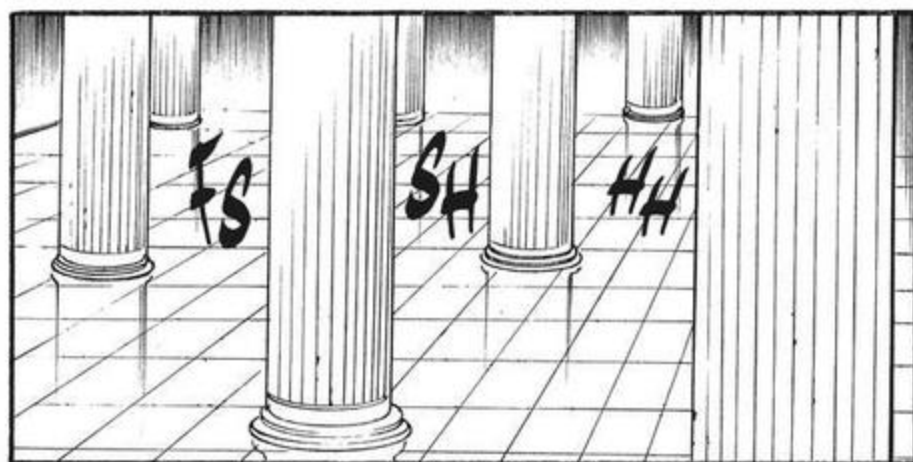
ZG

BUT AS
FAST AS
I CAN!

ZSH

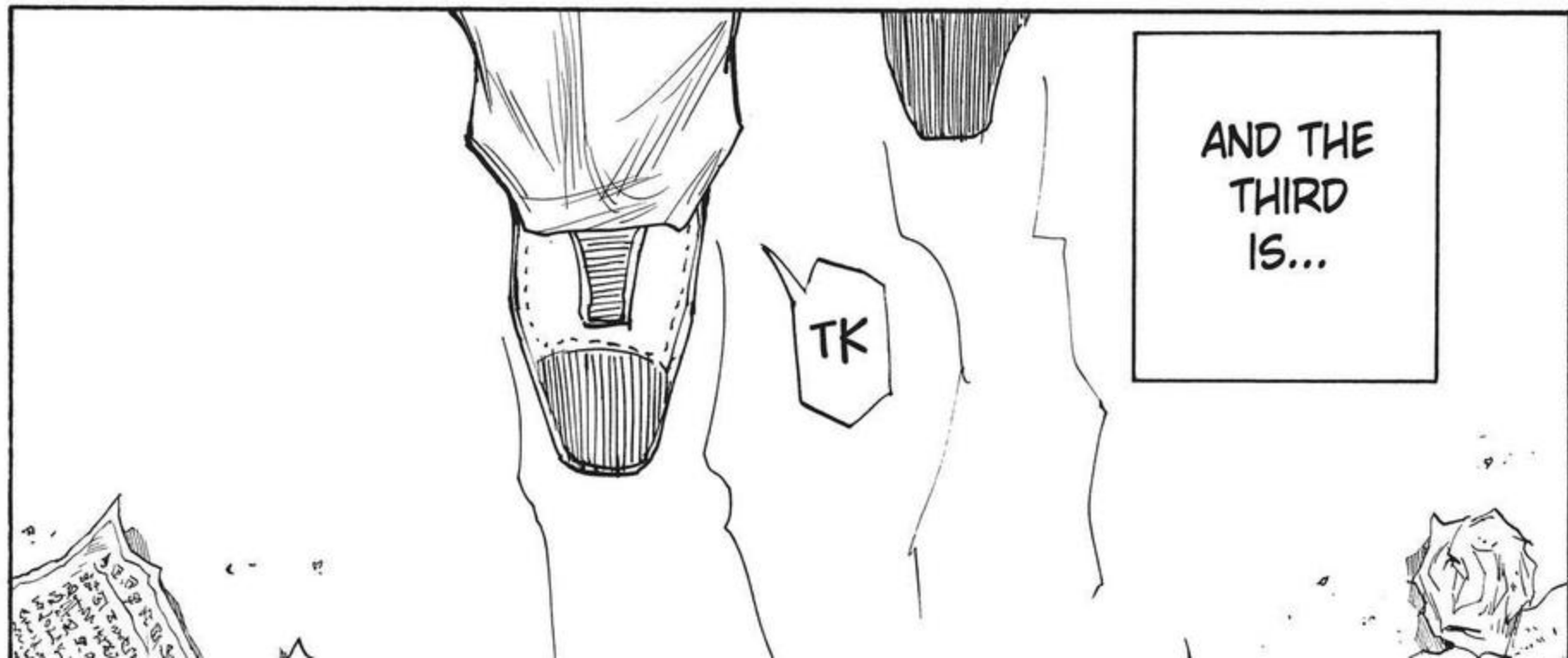
CARE-
FULLY...





ONE IS THE
YOUNG GUNGI
PLAYER,
ANOTHER IS
MING...

THERE ARE
CURRENTLY
THREE HUMANS
IN THE PALACE
WHO ARE NOT
KEPT FOR
FOOD.



AND THE
THIRD
IS...

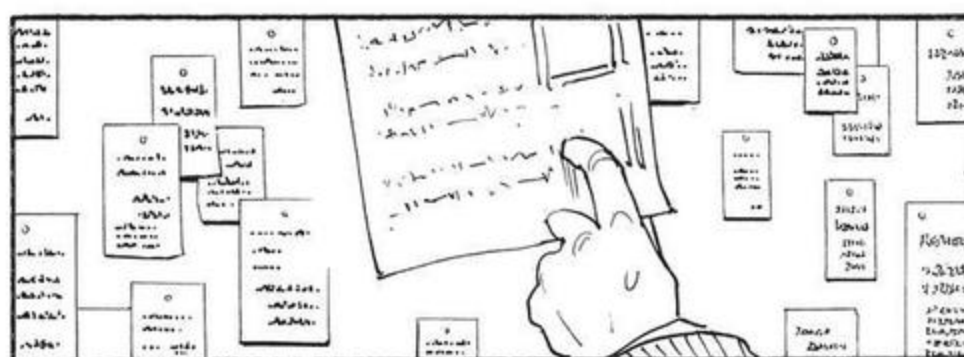


...DIRECTOR
BIZEFF.

HE WAS THE
ONE TRULY IN
CONTROL OF
THIS COUNTRY,
WORKING
FROM BEHIND
THE SCENES.

NEGOTIATIONS
WITH OTHER
COUNTRIES AND ALL
COMMUNICATIONS
BETWEEN ESSENTIAL
NATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS GO
THROUGH HIM.

HE WAS THE
ONLY HUMAN
ALLOWED TO
STAY BY THE
KING'S SIDE
BECAUSE
THERE WAS NO
REPLACEMENT.



FSSSS

H H

H

H

NORMAL SOLDIERS ARE
TOTALLY INEFFECTIVE
AGAINST NEN, AND THE
ROYAL GUARDS DECIDED
THAT KEEPING THEM
WOULD ONLY CREATE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
ENEMY INFILTRATION.

THERE ARE NO
HUMAN SENTRIES
EVEN OUTSIDE
THE PALACE.



CHEETU, WHO JUST
RETURNED, IS THE
ONLY SQUADRON
LEADER CURRENTLY
HERE, ALONG WITH
SIX LESSER ANTS.

ZZ H

ZLSH

ZZH

THEREFORE,
THERE ARE
CURRENTLY ONLY
THREE HUMANS
(BESIDES THOSE
KEPT FOR FOOD)
AND ELEVEN ANTS
WITHIN THE
PALACE.

ZLSH



THERE WAS NO
LONGER ANY STRICT
LOYALTY BETWEEN
THE KING AND THE
SQUADRON LEADERS.
SELF-INTEREST WAS
THE ONLY REASON
KEEPING THEM THERE.

THE LOWER-
RANKED ANTS
WERE FAVORITES
OF THE SQUADRON
LEADERS AND HAD
NOTHING TO DO
WITH GUARDING
THE KING.

ZLSH ZSH

ZLSH

THEREFORE,
LOOKOUT DUTY
WOULD NEVER
BE LEFT TO
OTHERS.

ZSH

THE ROYAL GUARDS
KNOW THIS, SO THE
DELEGATED DUTIES
ARE ALL
INCONSEQUENTIAL.

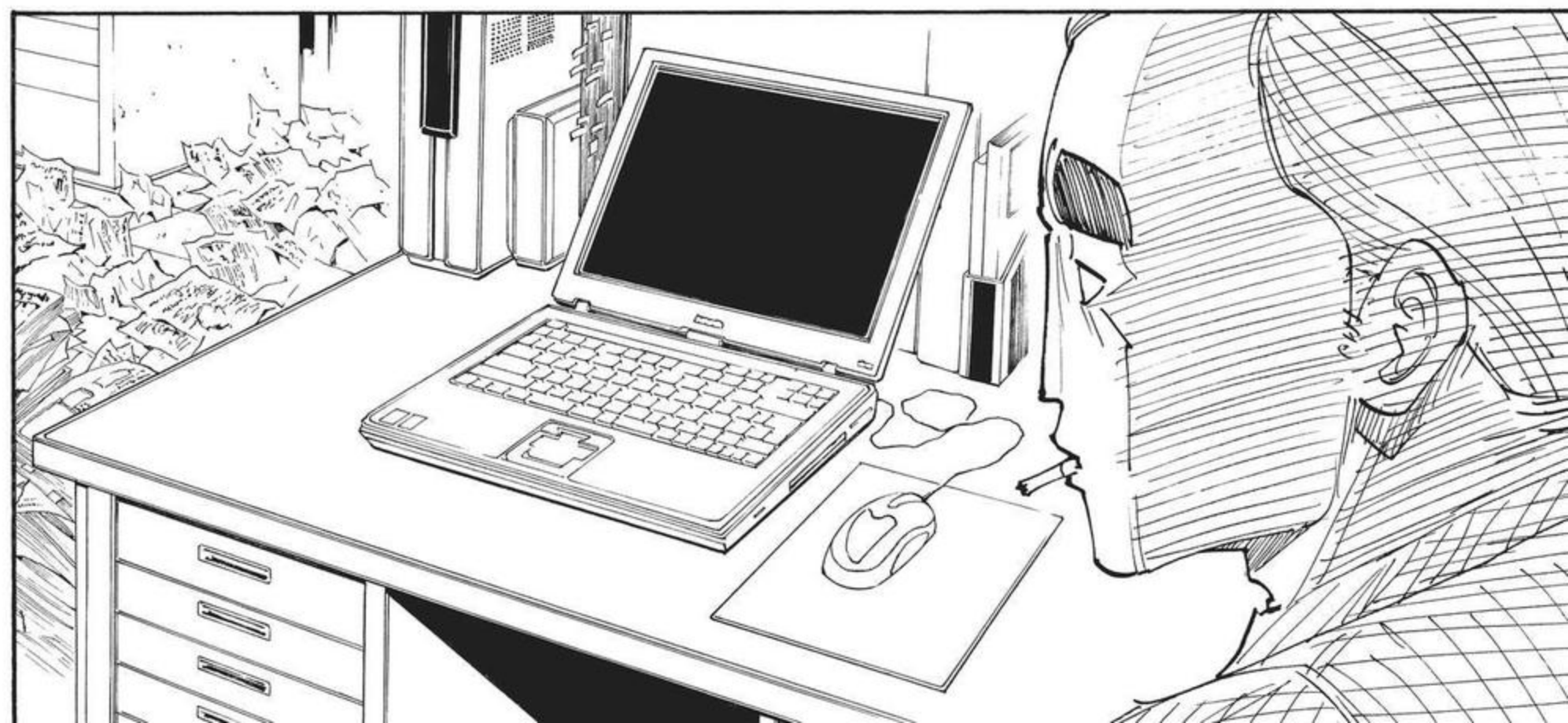
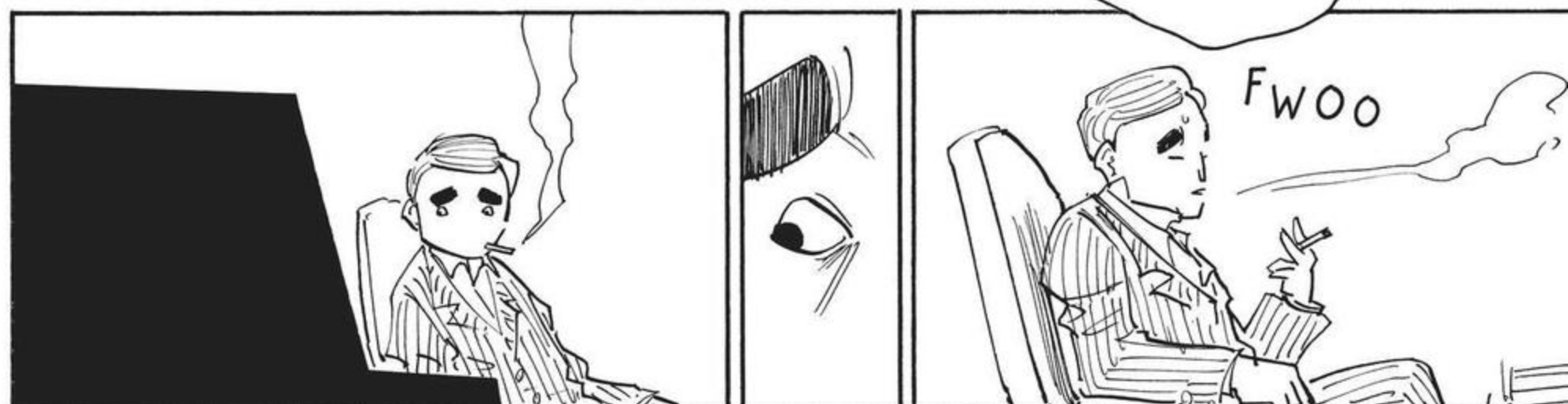
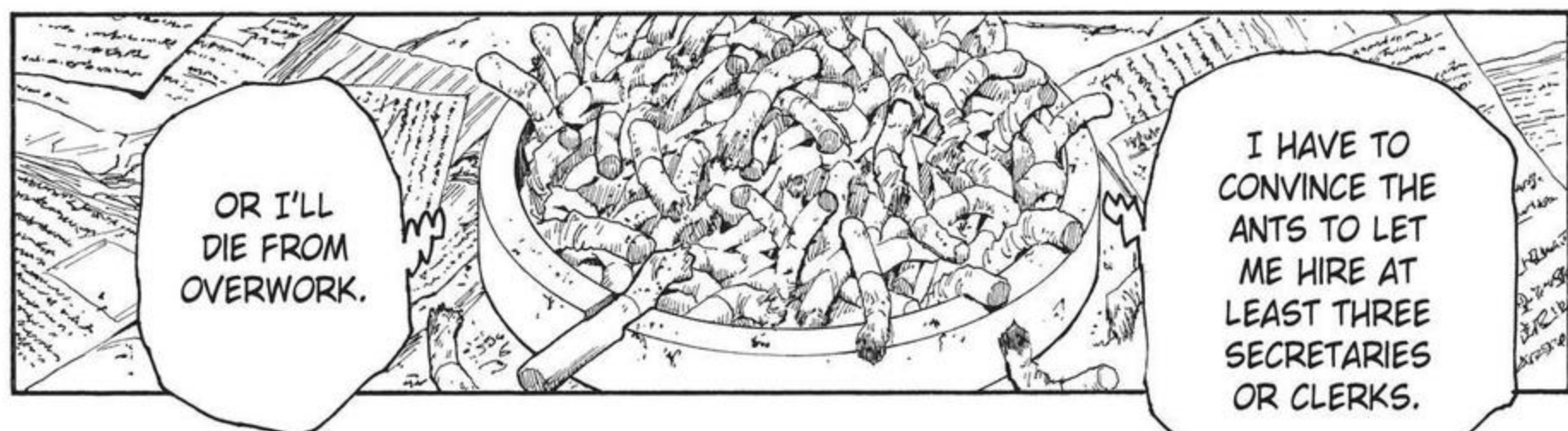
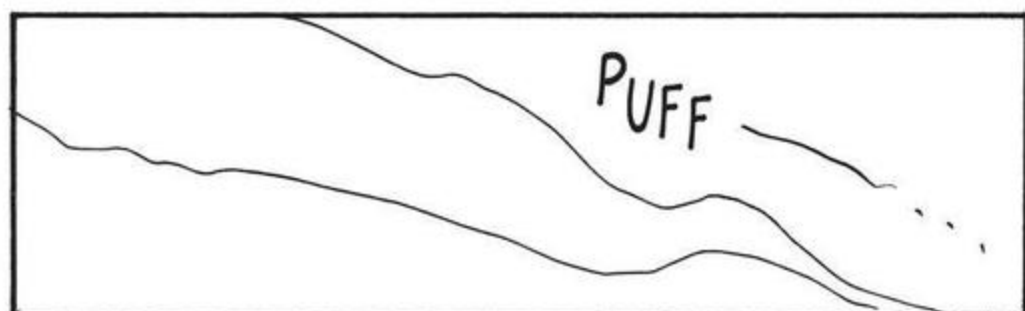
ZGGG

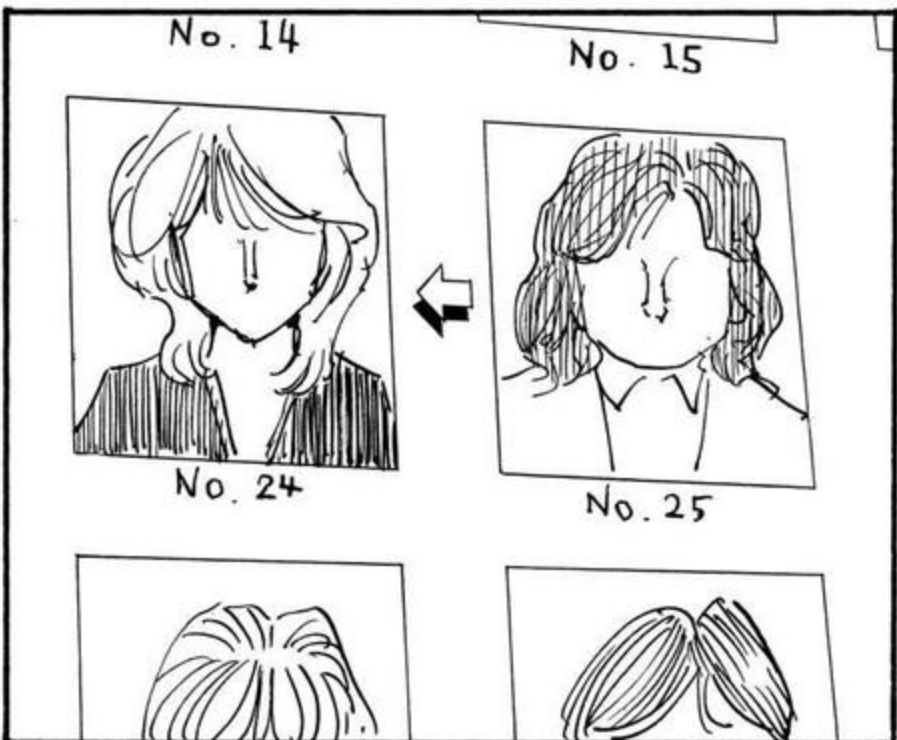
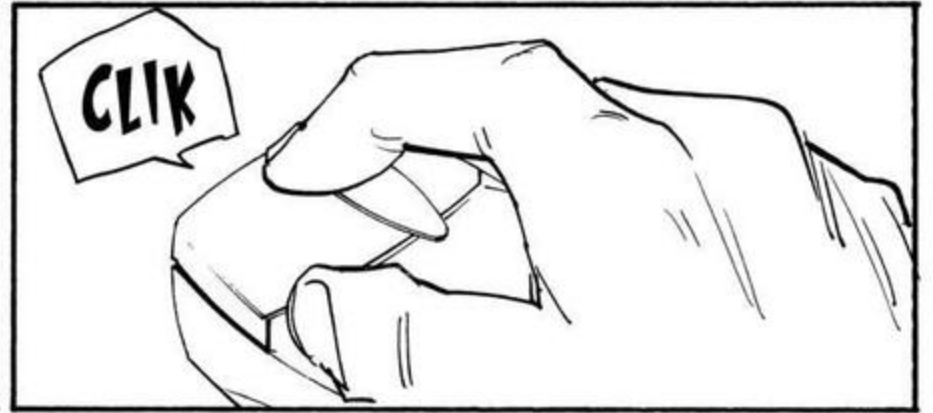
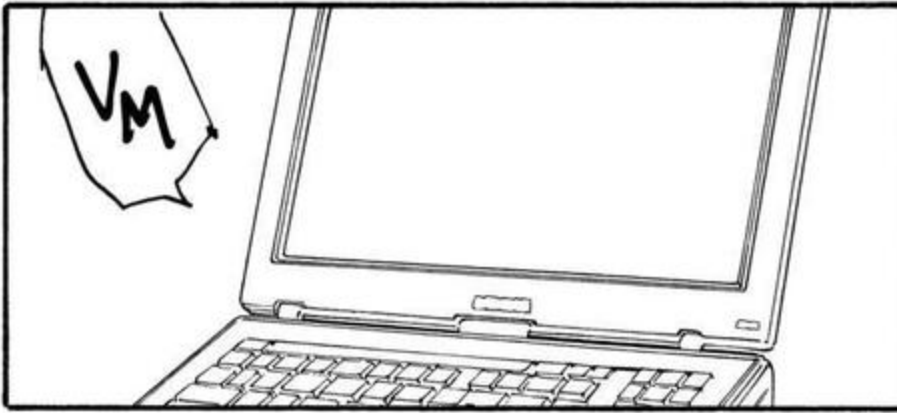
KNOW HAS NO WAY
OF KNOWING THAT,
OF COURSE...

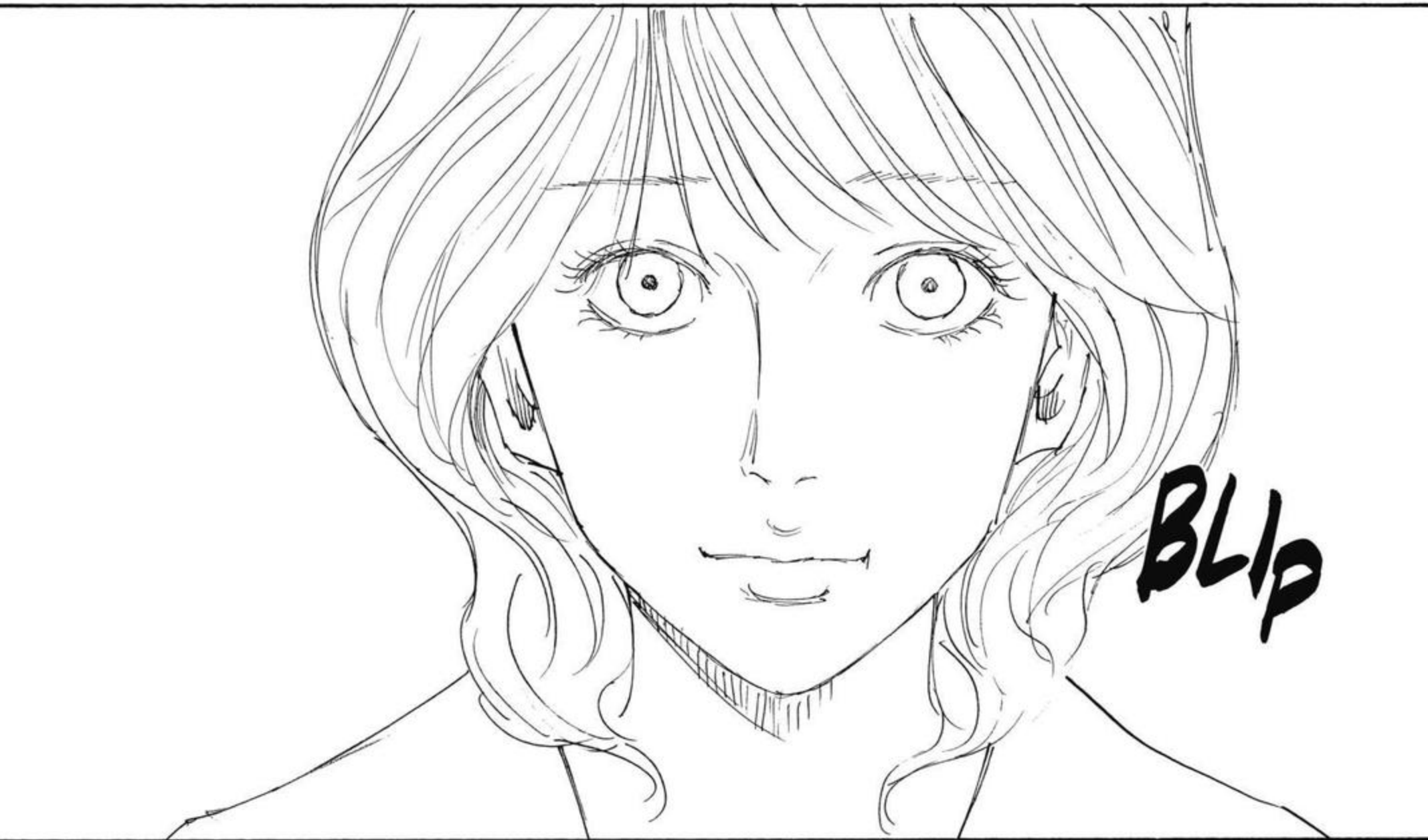
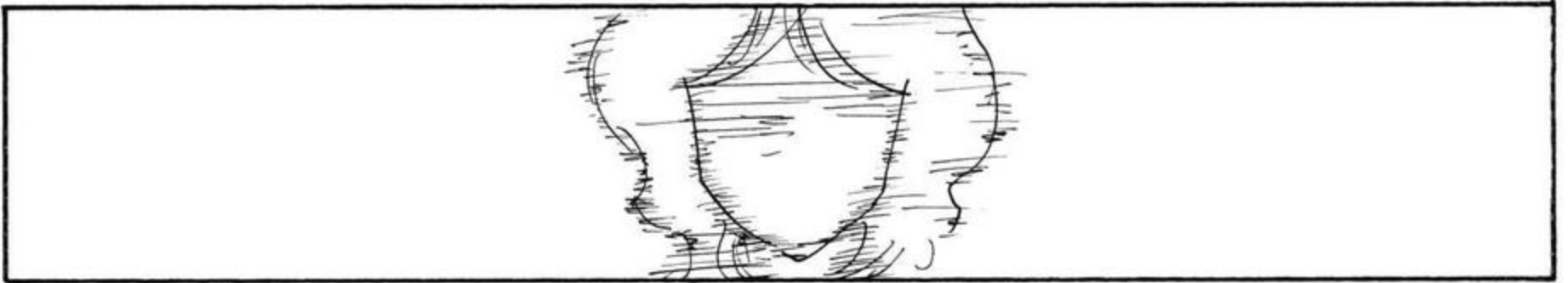
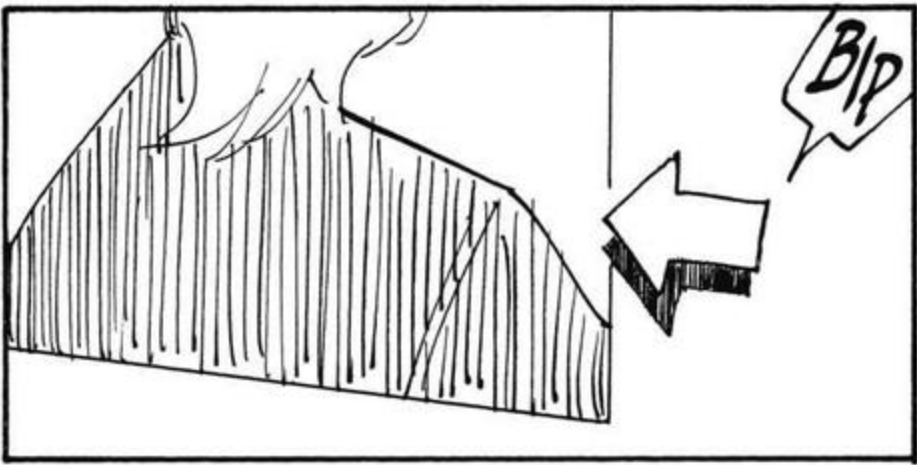
Sf



BUT RIGHT
NOW IS THE
BEST AND
LAST TIME
FOR HIM TO
SNEAK IN.

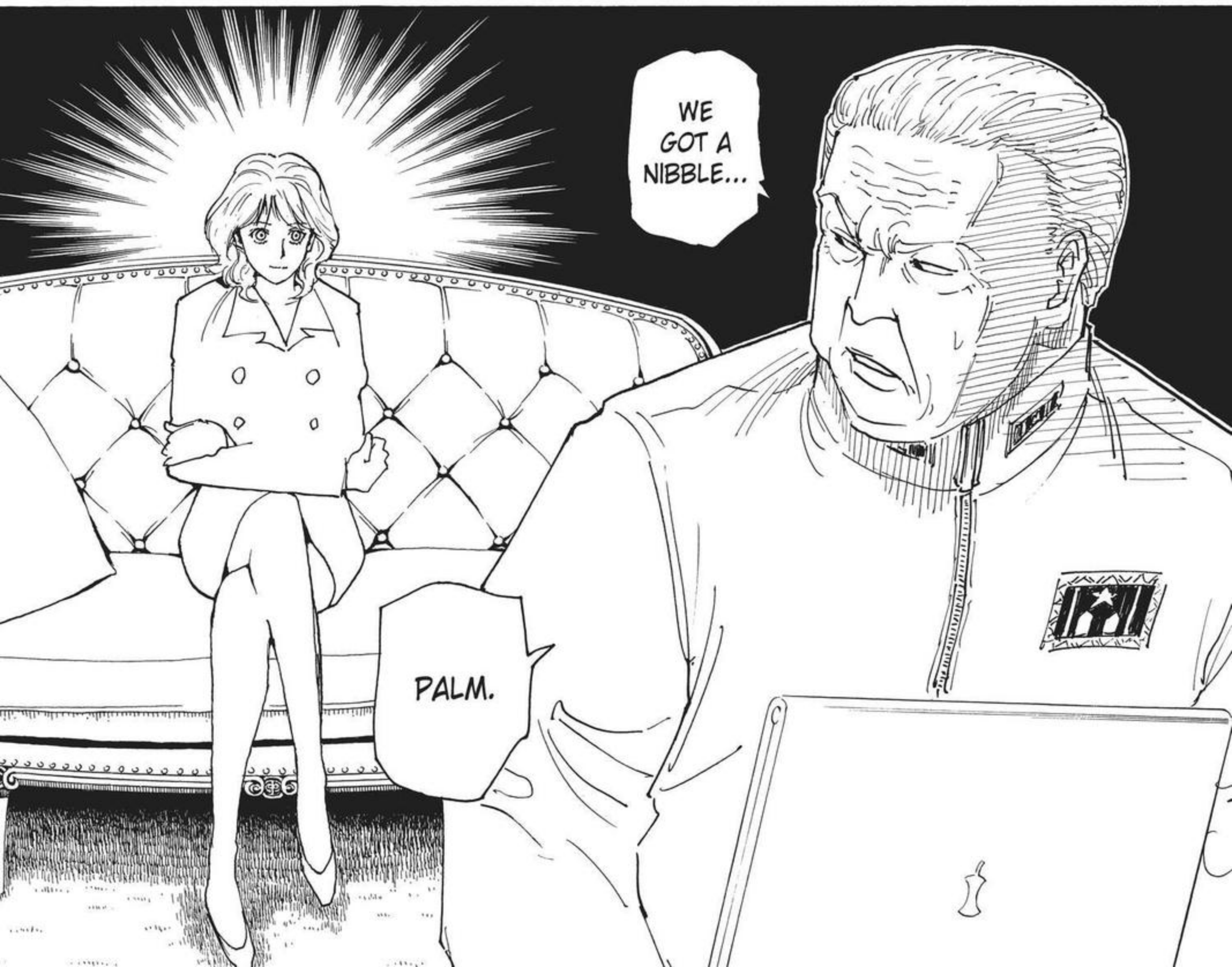






I'LL TAKE NUMBERS
2, 16, 79, 103, 119.

AS ARRANGED.





FSS

HHH

Chapter 251: 6: Part 8

I'M
FINALLY
HERE!!

ON THE
GROUNDS!!

...IS STILL
OVER 100M
AWAY!!

THE
CENTRAL
STAIR-
CASE...





ABOUT 500
PER TREE,
WITH TEN
TREES.

GIANT
FRUIT ON
WEIRD
TREES...



KILLUA'S
INTERFERENCE
MEANT IT WAS
ONLY CARRIED OUT
FOR ONE DAY...SO
IT ADDS UP!

SF

THEY
SORTED
500,000
PEOPLE PER
DAY, WITH A
1 PERCENT
SURVIVAL
RATE...

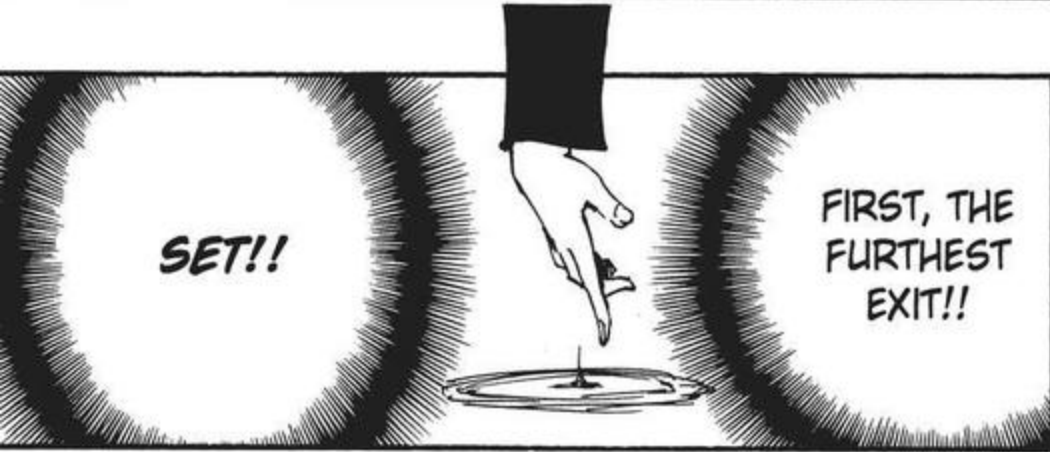


...AND ATTACK
MANKIND AS THE
KING'S PAWNS!!



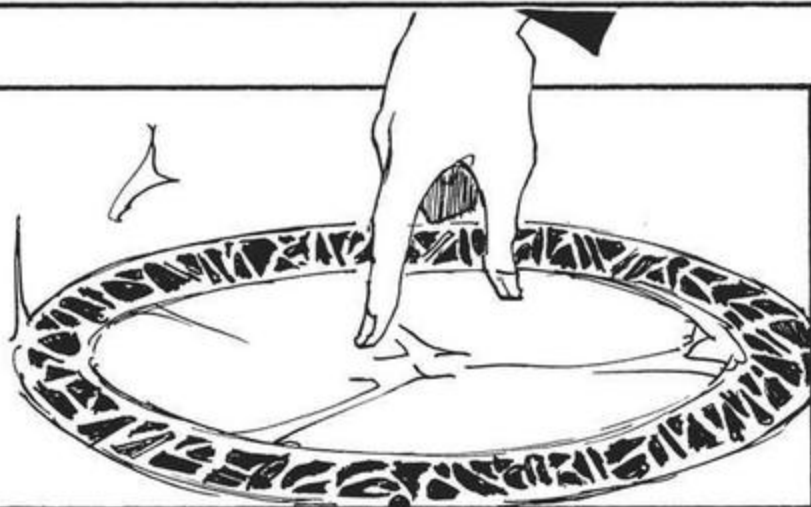
THESE
5,000 ARE
THE SORTED
HUMAN
COCOONS!!

THEY'LL
HATCH
INTO NEN
WEAPONS...





IT'S
GETTING
A LOT
DARKER
NOW.



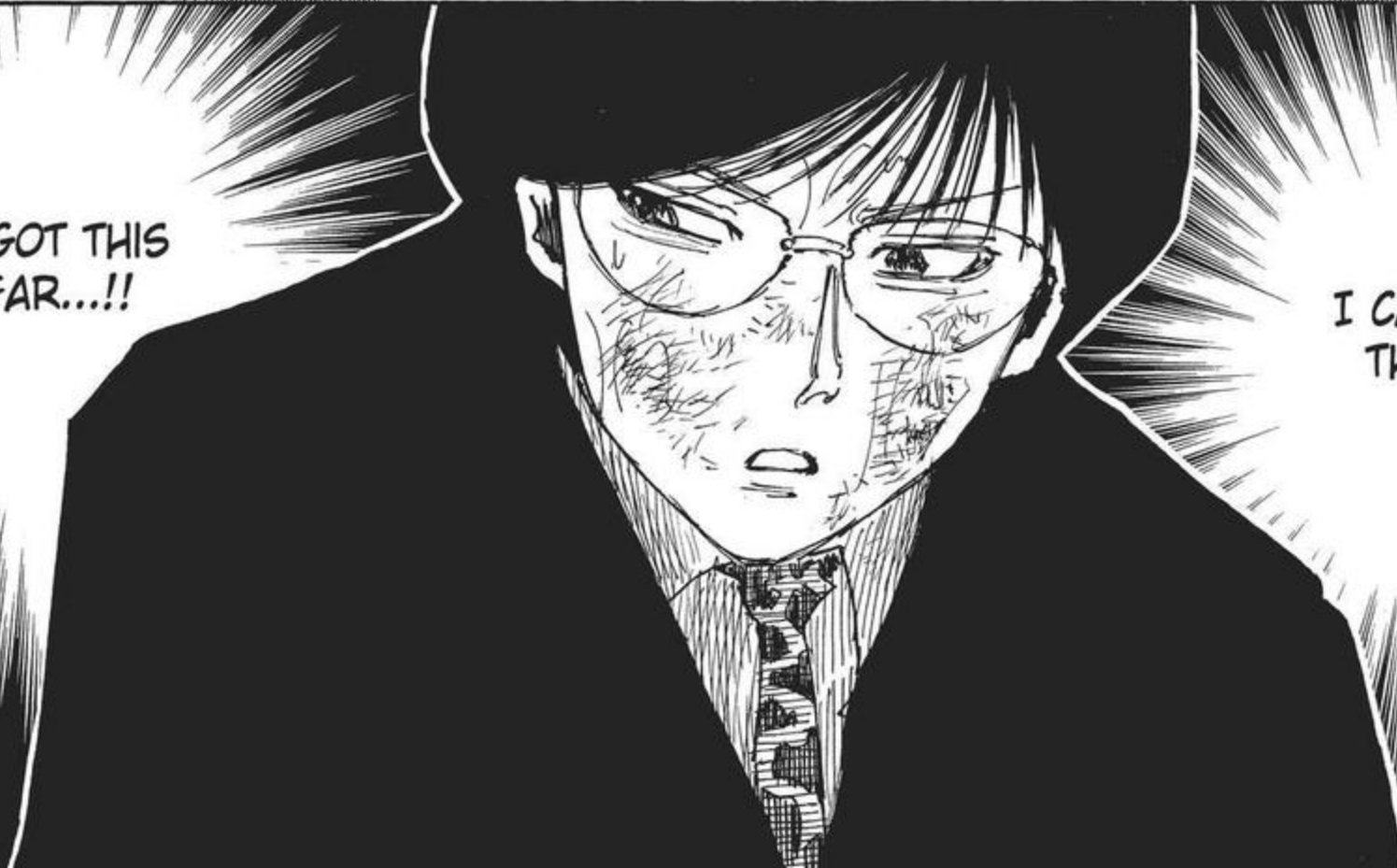
NO
LOOK-
OUTS.



ALL'S
WELL!!

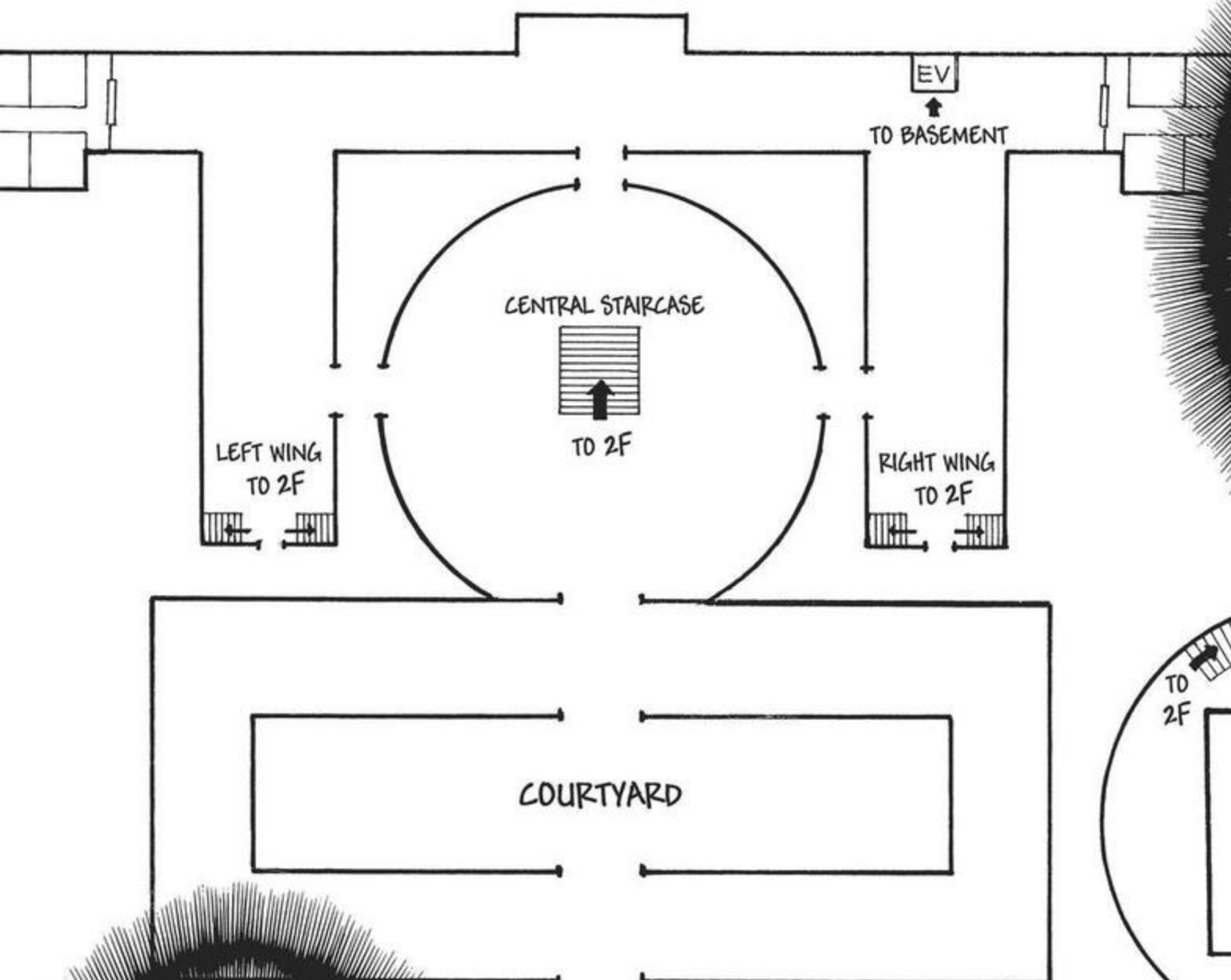
...IS
MINIMALLY
STAFFED!

I BET THE
INSIDE...



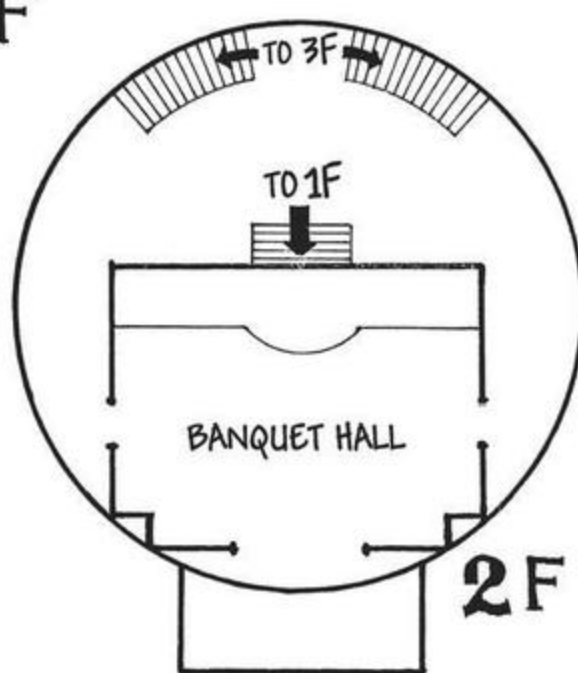
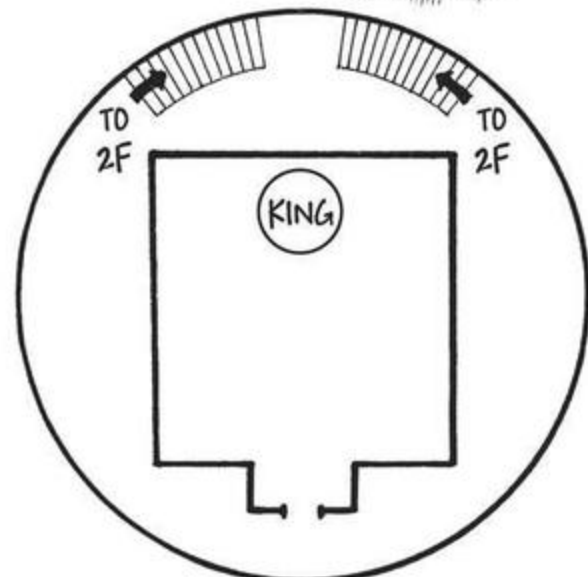
I GOT THIS
FAR...!!

I CAN DO
THIS!!



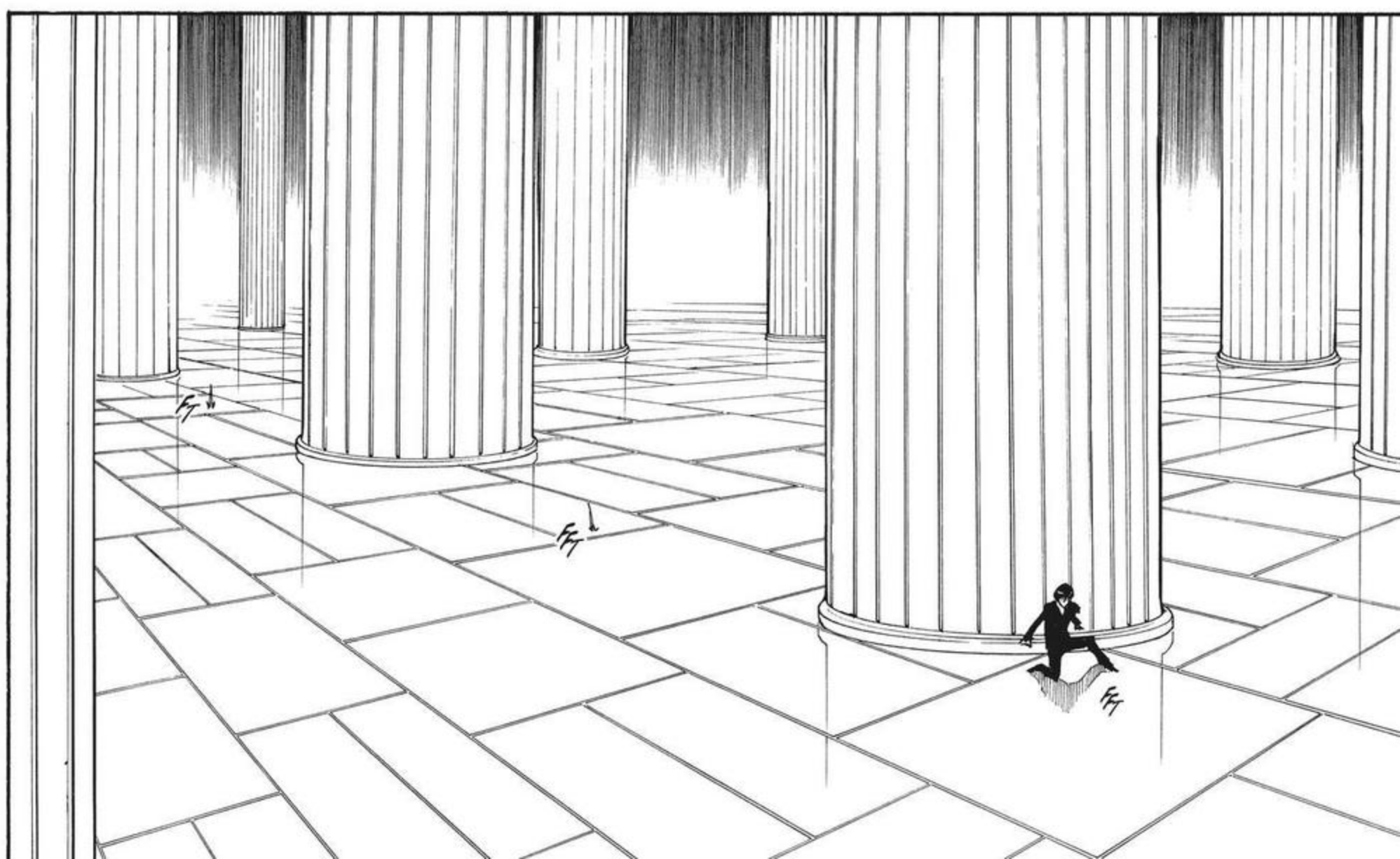
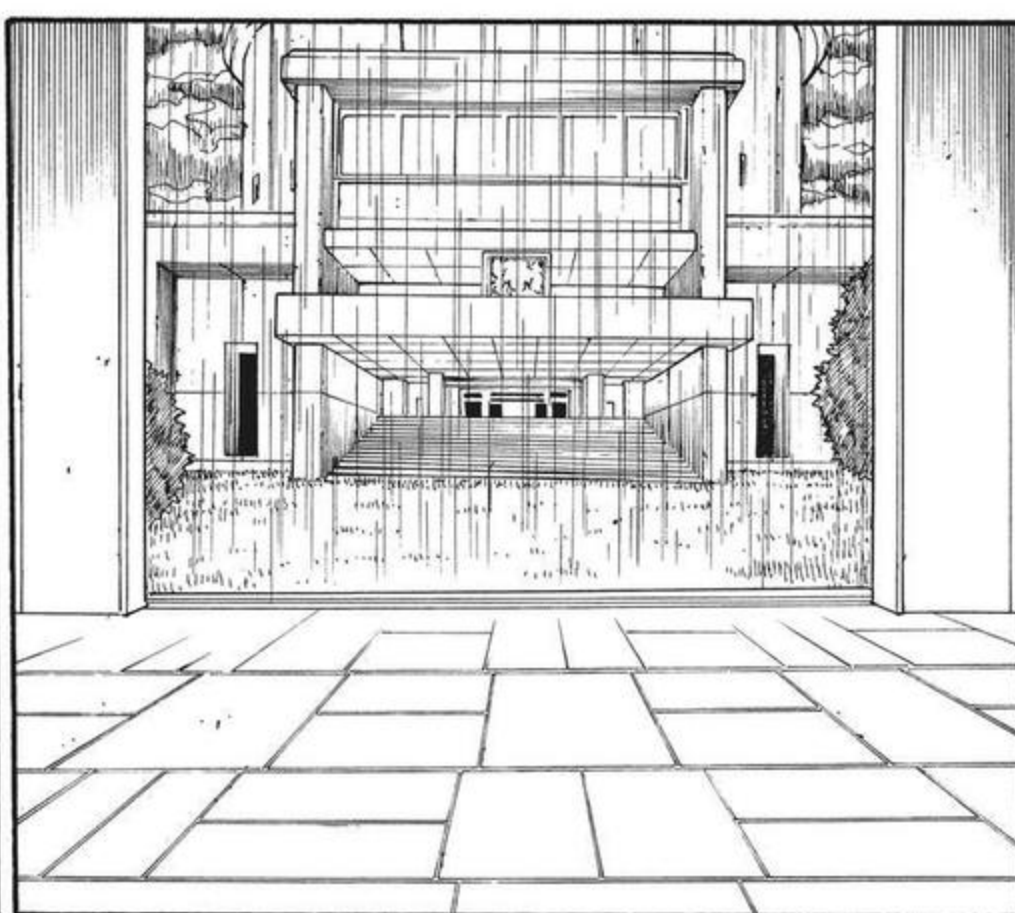
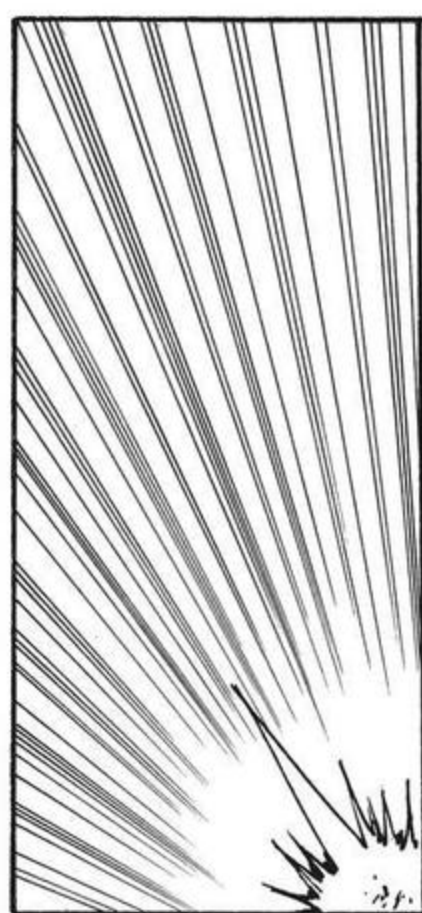
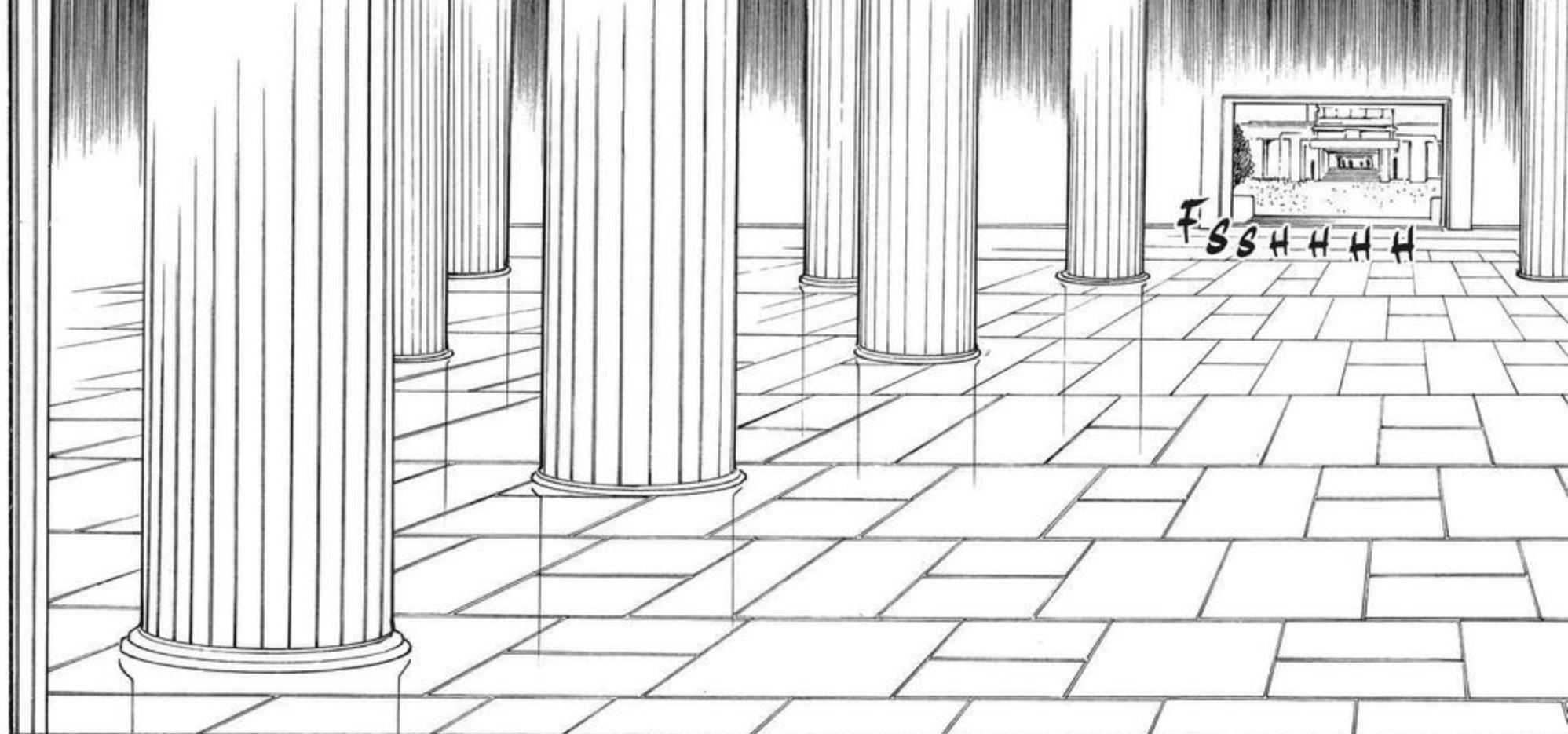
WE NEED TO
DISTRACT THE
ROYAL GUARDS'
ATTENTION, IF
ONLY FOR
A SPLIT
SECOND!!

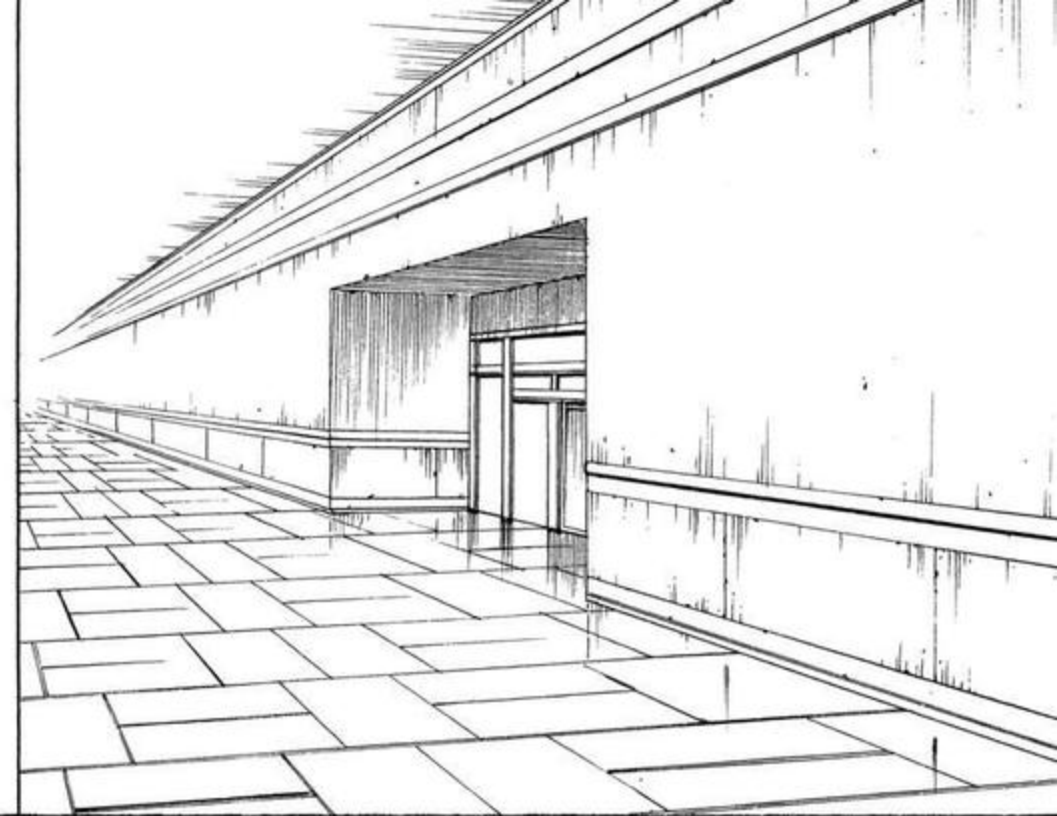
THE THRONE
ROOM IS ON
THE THIRD
FLOOR!! THE
FIRST FLOOR
IS TOO FAR!!



...THE
CENTRAL
STAIRCASE
ON THE
SECOND
FLOOR!!

THE BEST
PLACE
WOULD
BE...





PREFERABLY
UP THE STAIRS,
ON THE SECOND
FLOOR!!

...GET TO
THE CENTRAL
STAIRCASE!!



THIS IS
HARDLY ANY
DIFFERENT
FROM THE
OUTSIDE! I
HAVE TO AT
LEAST...

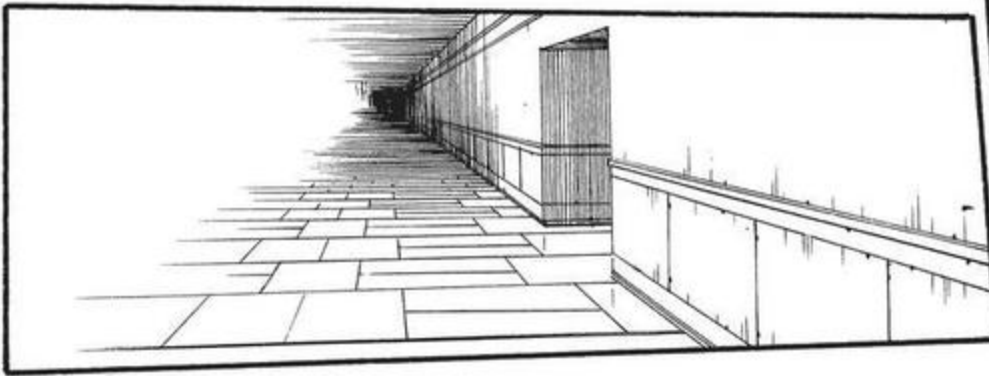
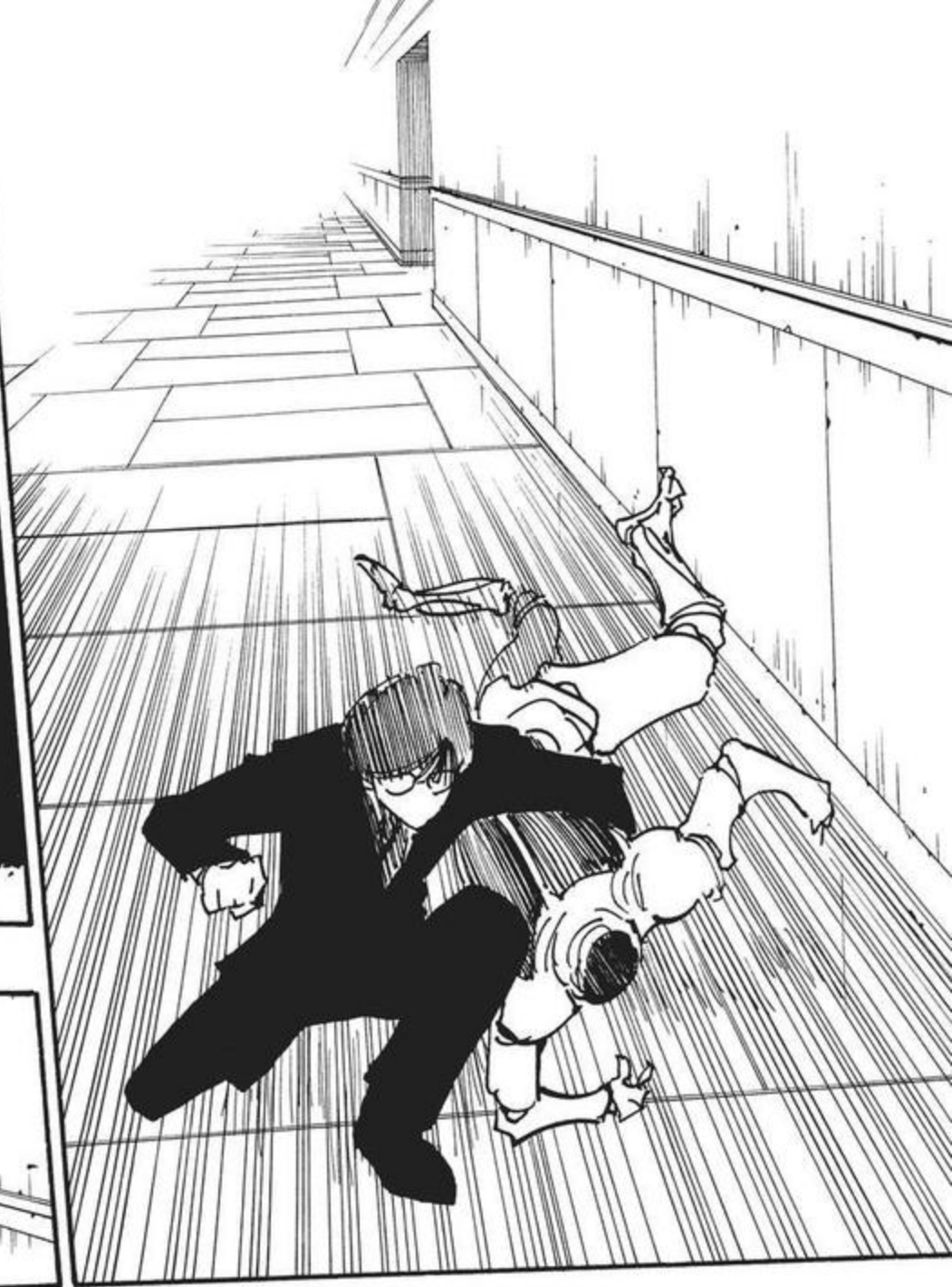
NO...

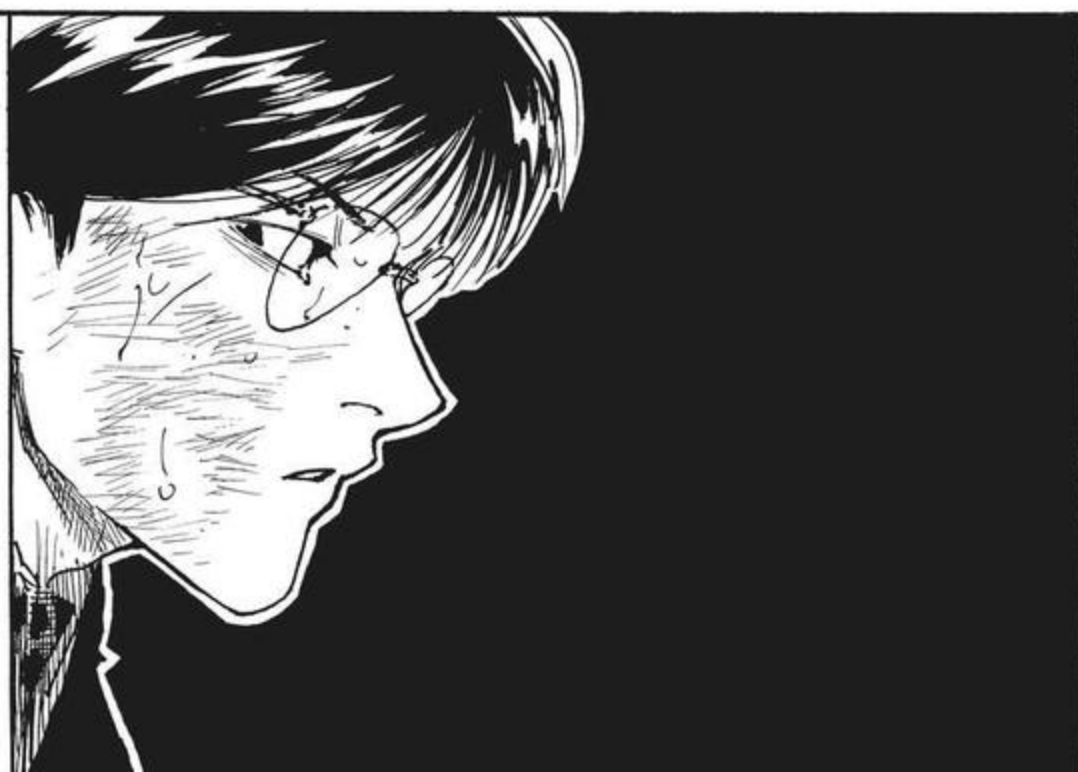
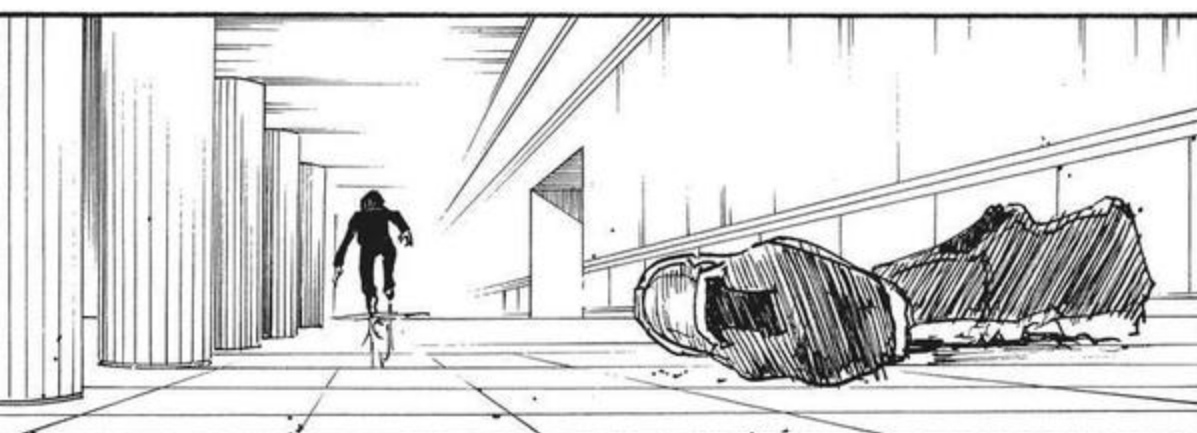
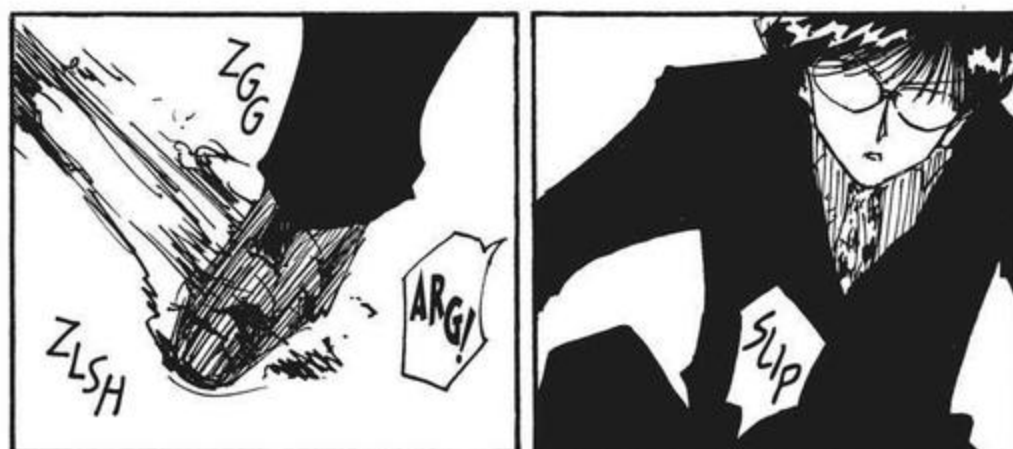
SHOULD I
MAKE ONE
HERE JUST
IN CASE?

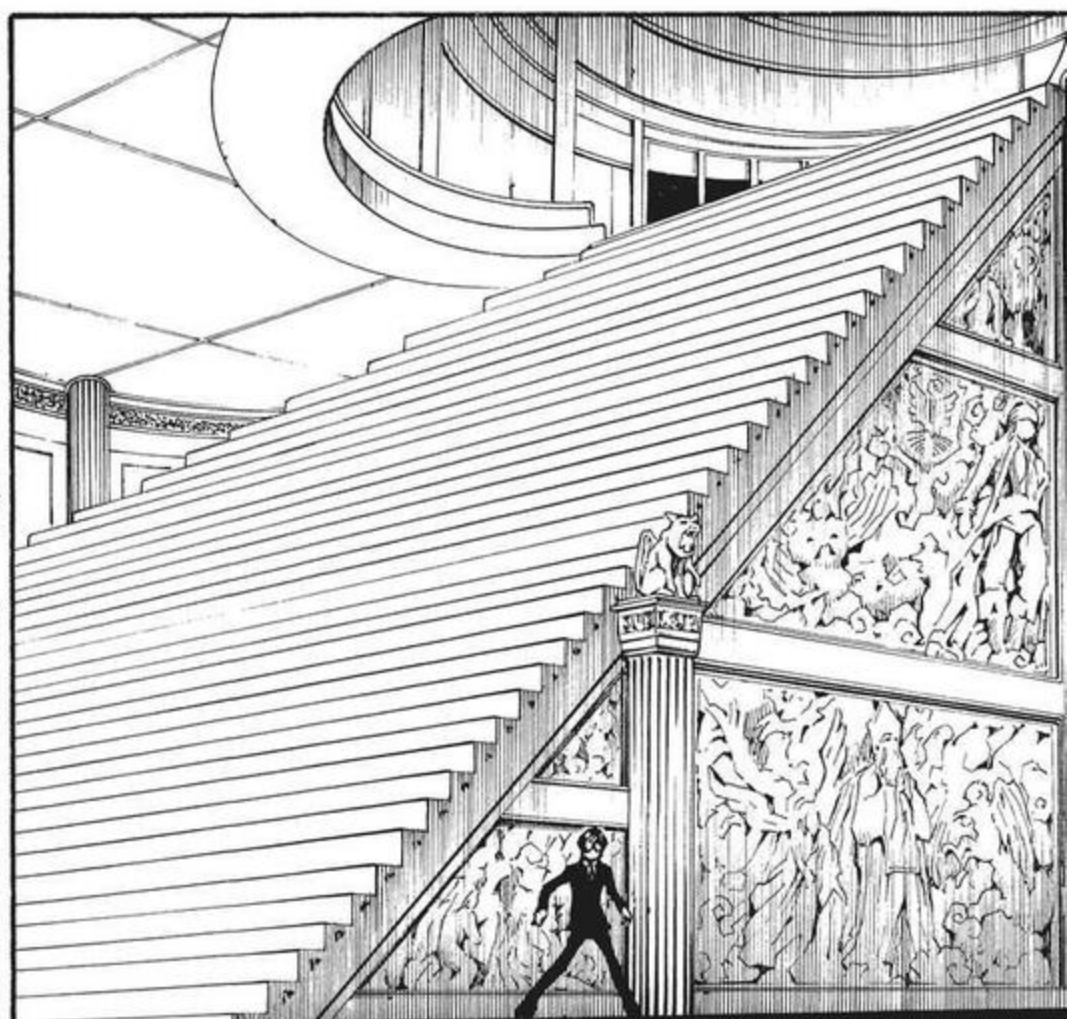
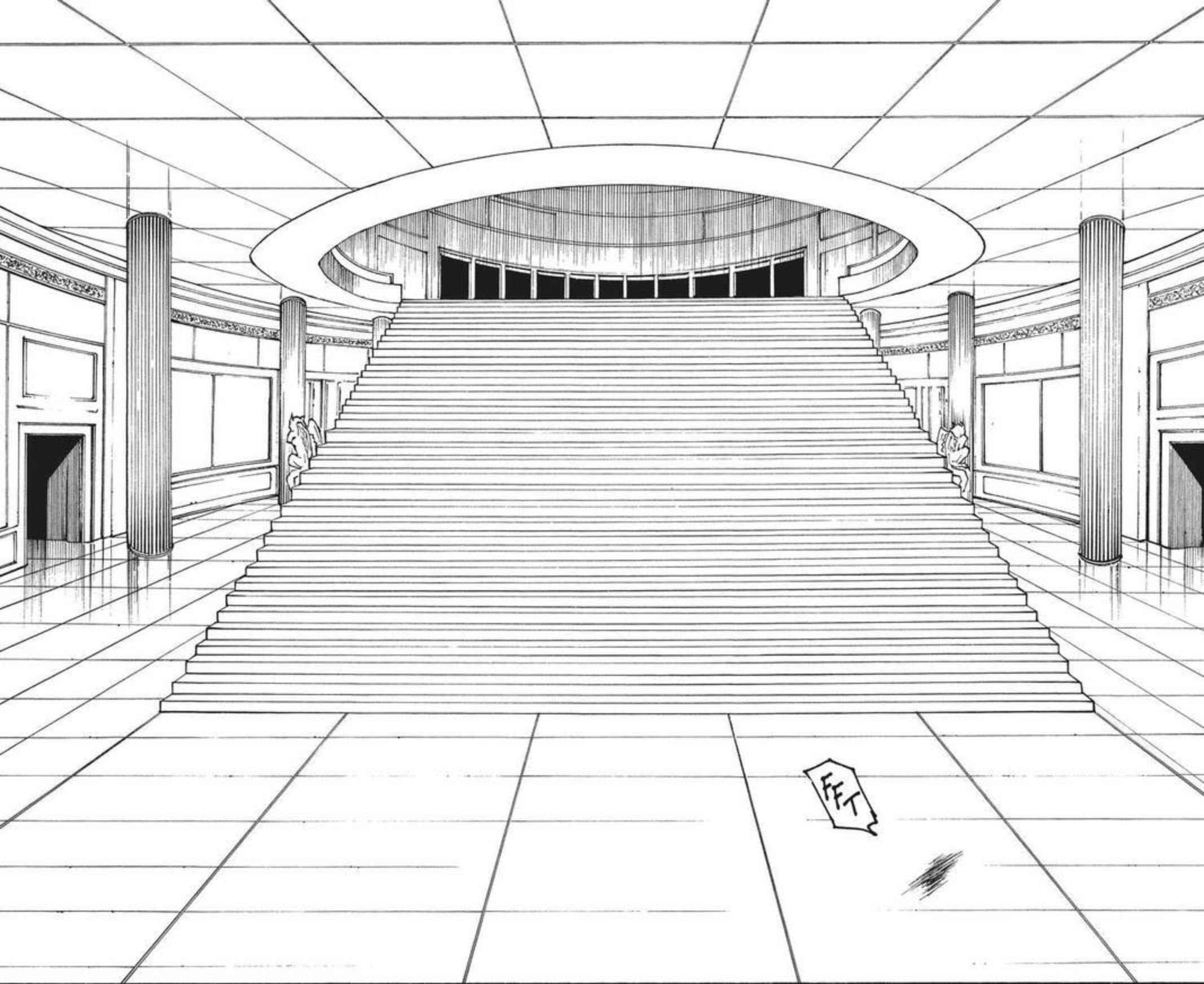


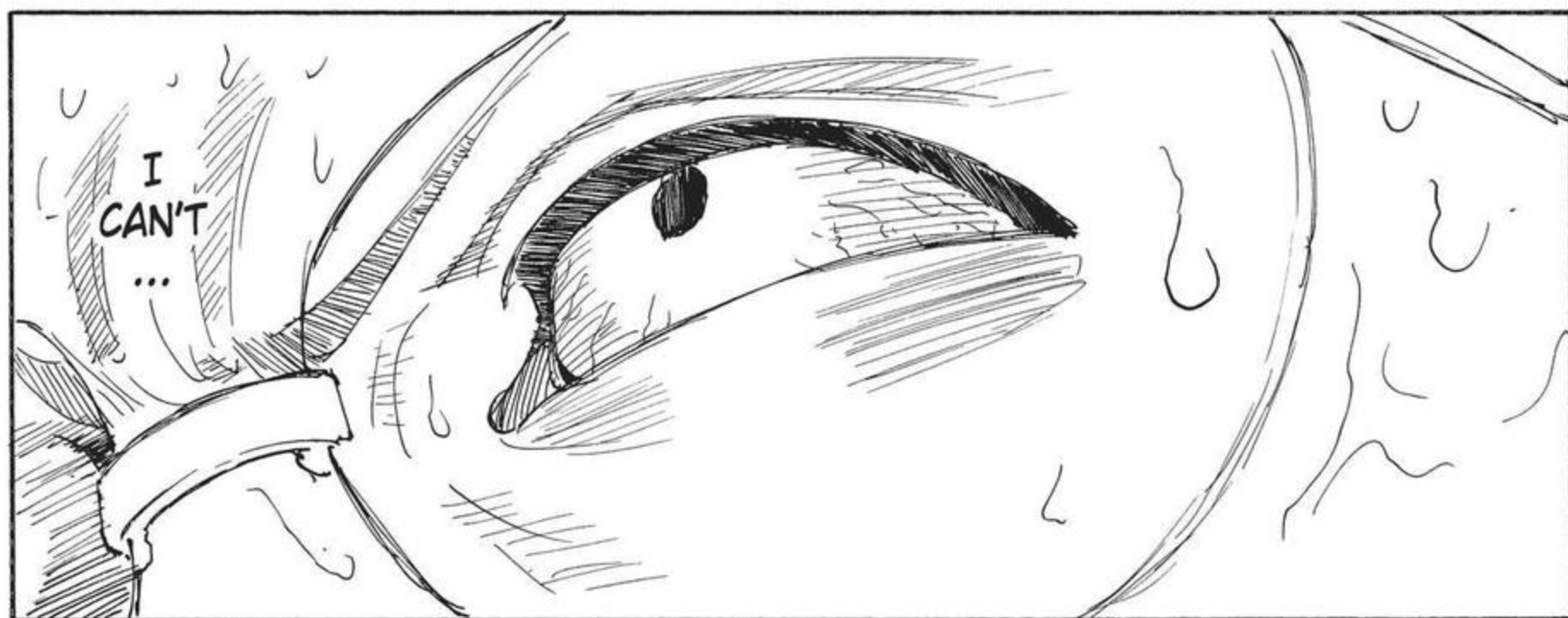












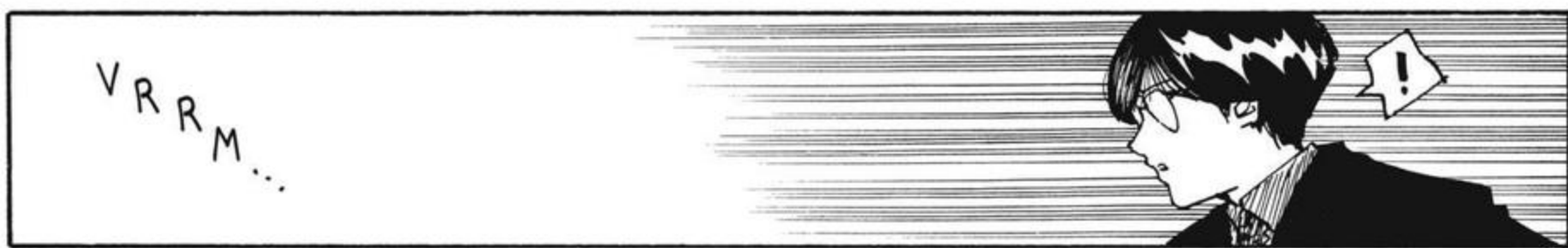
I CAN'T
GO ANY
CLOSER
...

I
JUST
CAN'T
!!

THEY'LL
KILL ME.

IF I
DO...





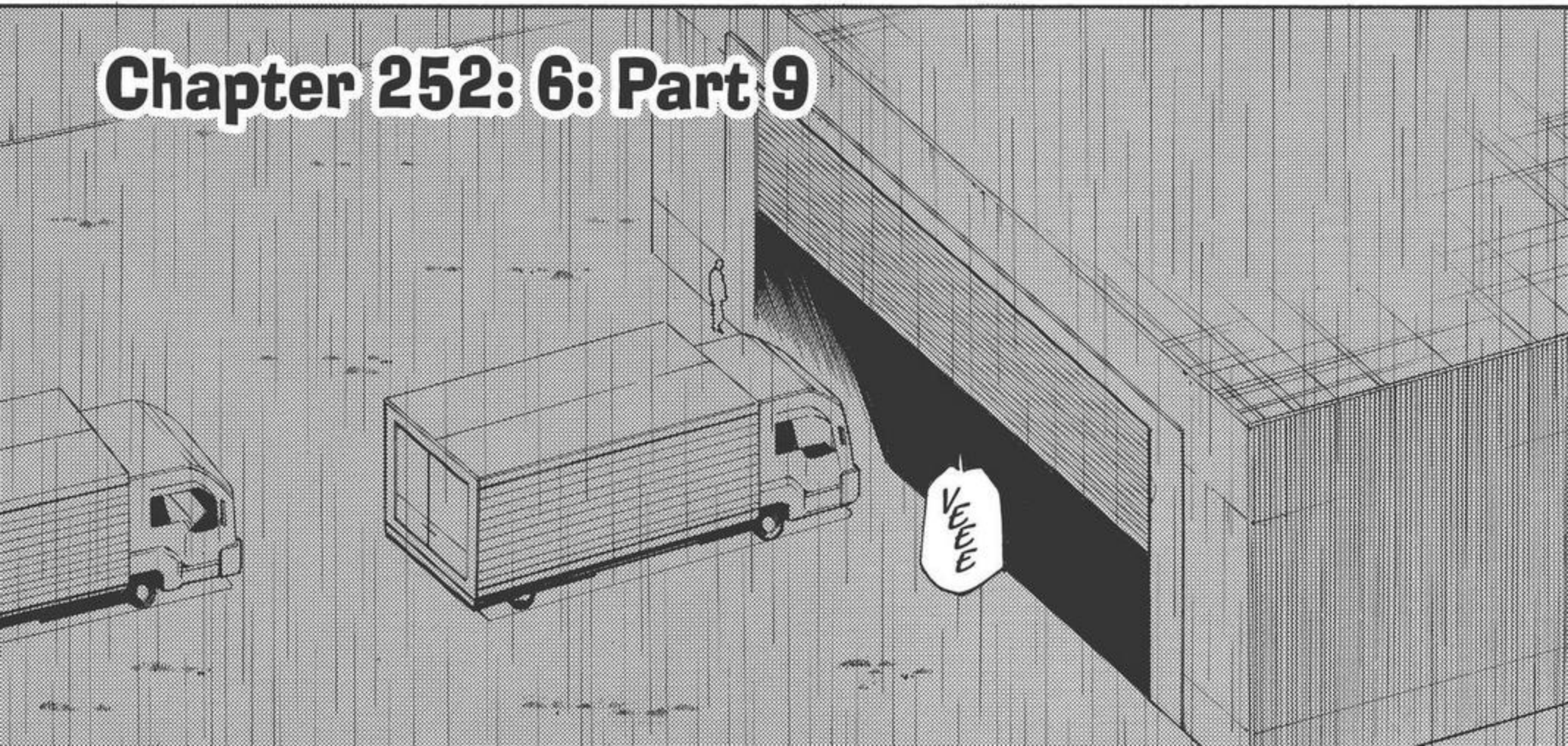


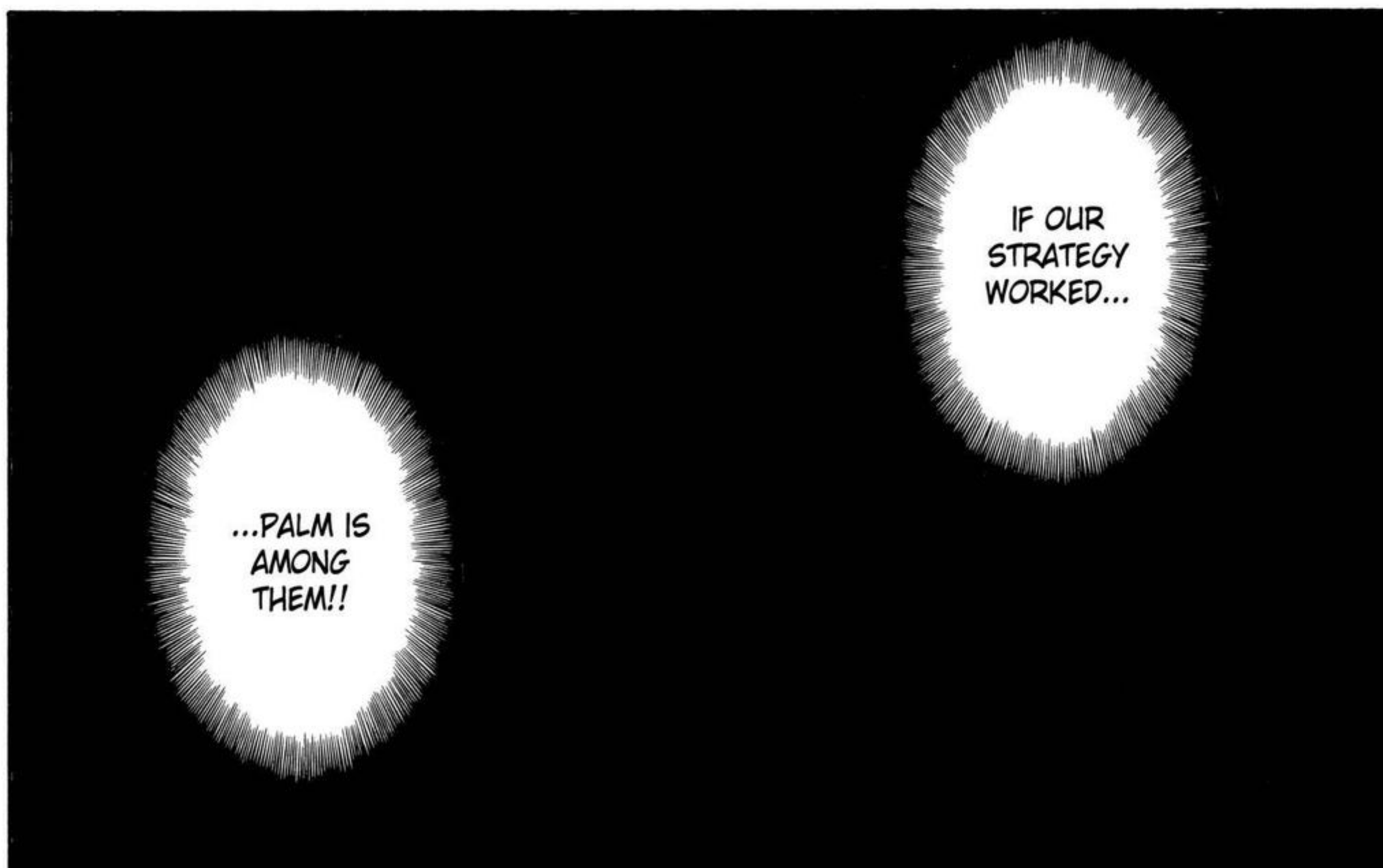
FS H H H H

VROOM



Chapter 252: 6: Part 9









DON'T GET IN
OVER YOUR
HEAD!

PALM!!

SUCH...
VICIOUS
AURA...

IF YOU
GET
CAUGHT,
YOU'LL
DIE!!

MY...

SO EVEN IF
YOU DON'T
SUCCEED,
THE PLAN
CAN WORK!!

I MANAGED
TO PLANT
MY EXITS...

...JUST
BY
SEEING
THE
AURA
!!

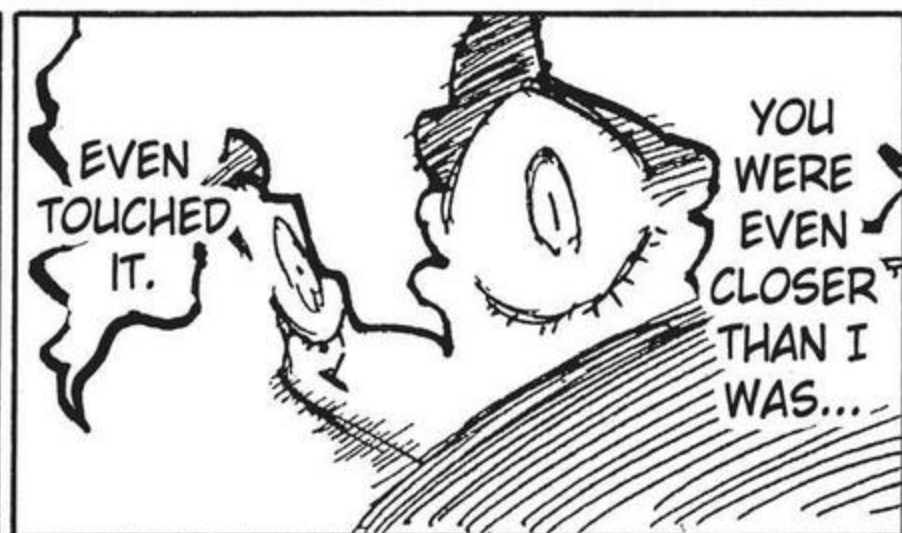
MY
SPIRIT
WAS
BROKEN
...



YOU'VE
SEEN IT
TOO.



THEN
HOW...





...TO
FACE
IT
AGAIN
?!

HOW
ARE
YOU
ABLE
...



...CAN
YOU
STILL
FIGHT
?!

HOW...



TO SAVE
HUMANITY?!

TO SAVE
KITE?!

...DO
YOU KEEP
GOING?!

HOW...

PALM...!!



...GET
IN OVER
YOUR
HEAD!!

DON'T...



DON'T
PUSH
YOUR
LUCK.

PLEASE...

IT'S ALL
OVER!!

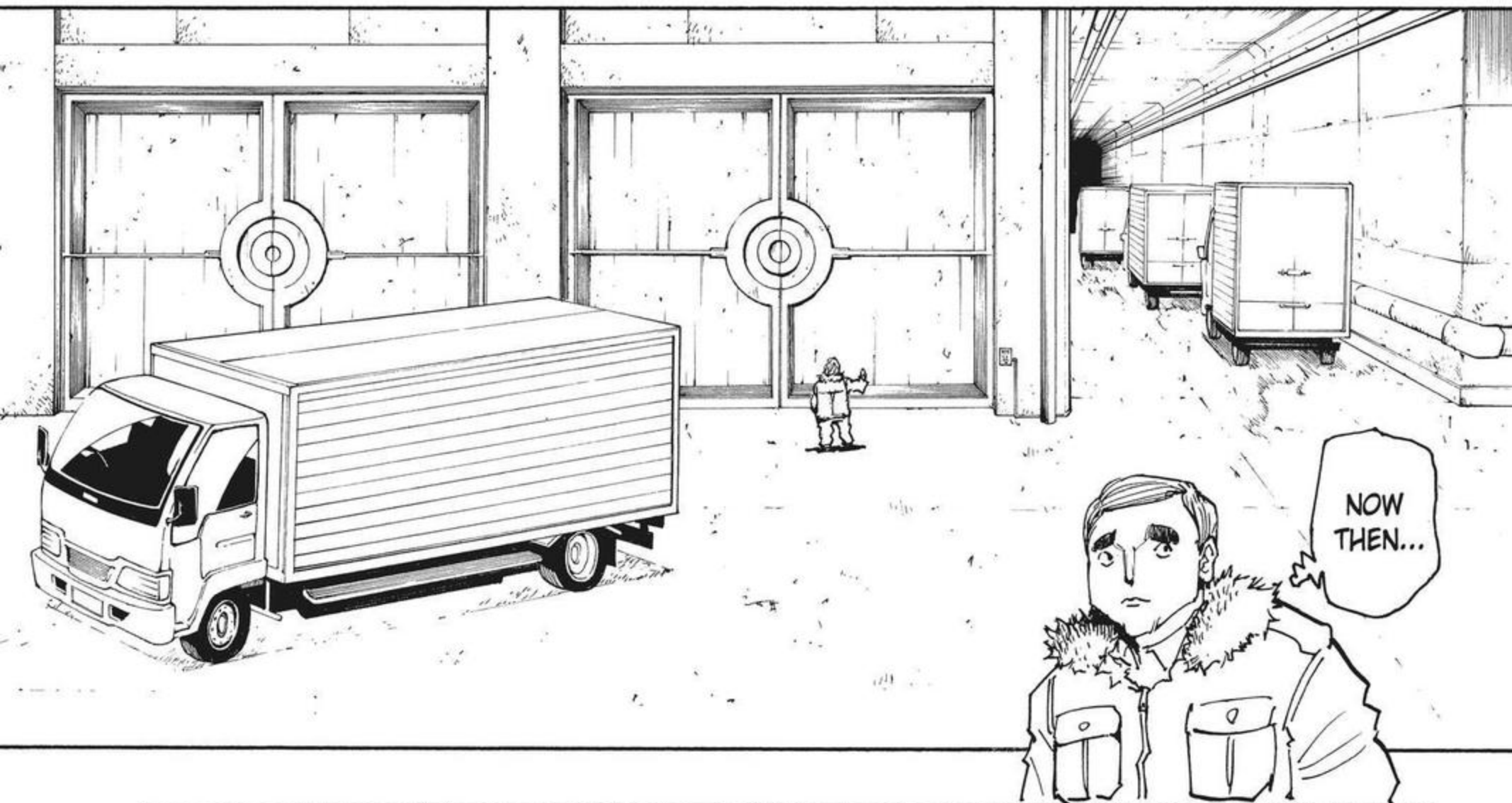
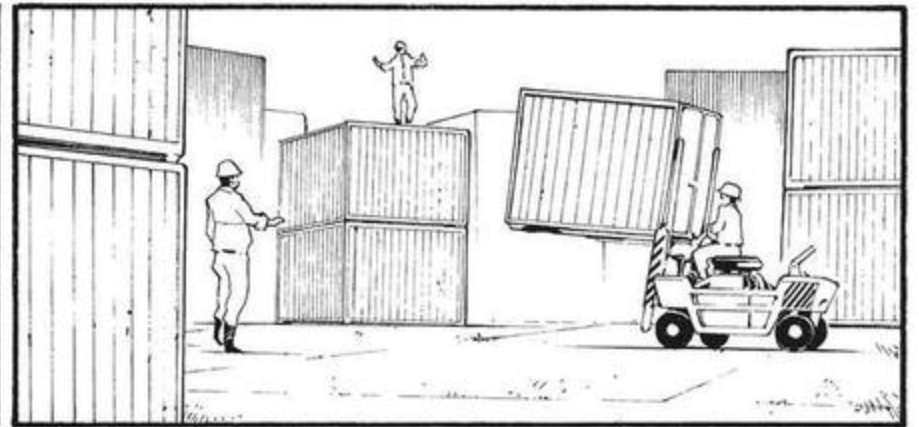
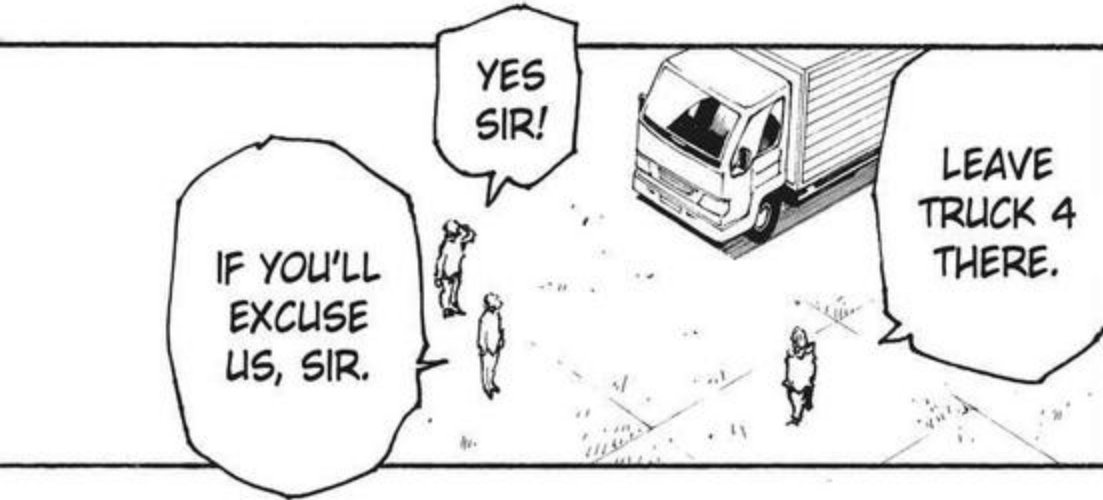
IF YOU'RE
CAUGHT...

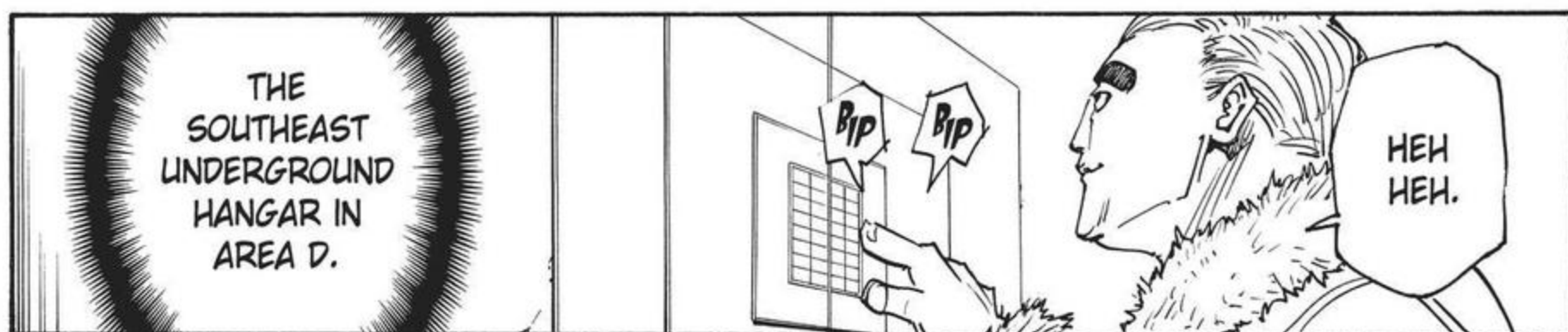
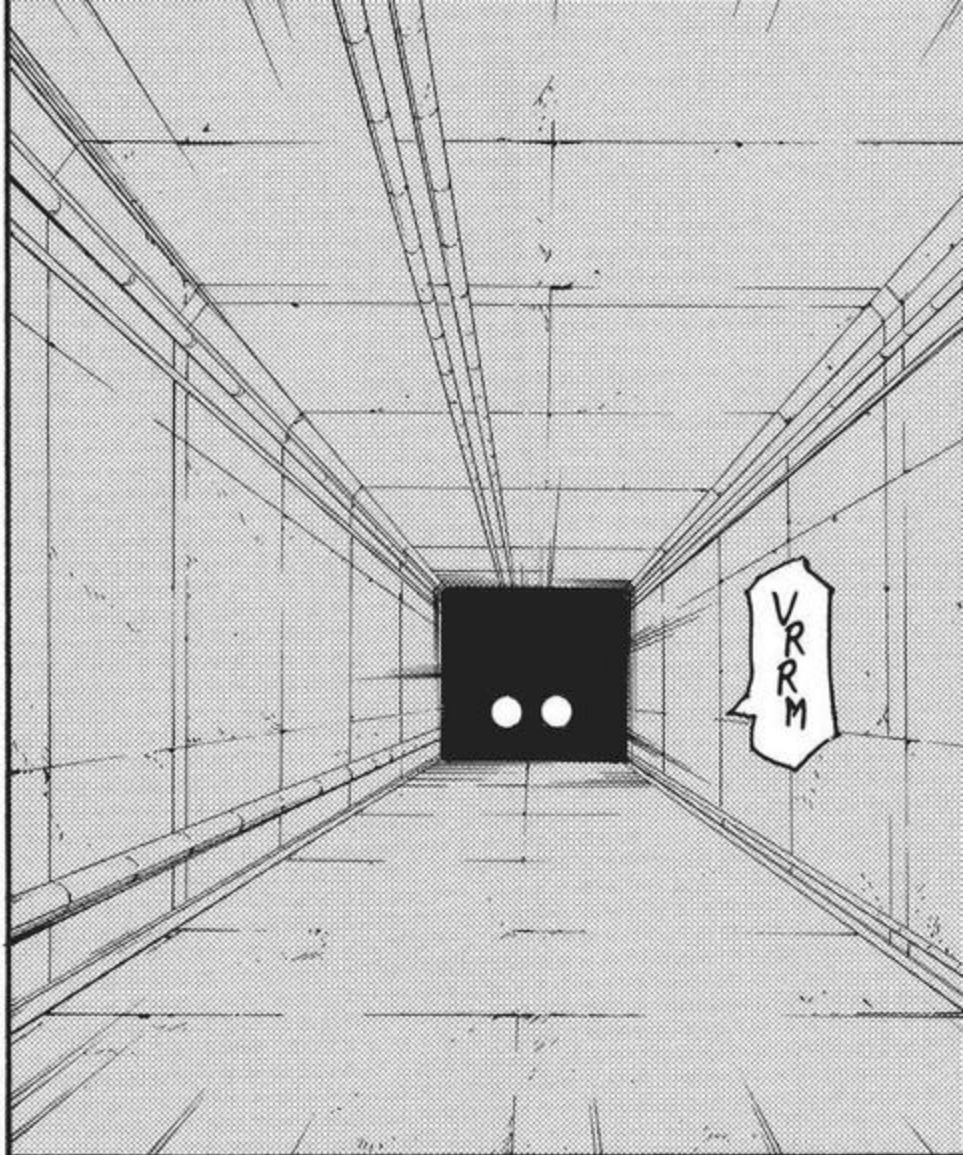
**I
CAN'T
GO
BACK
THERE
AGAIN
!!**

**I
CAN'T
...**

**PALM
!!**



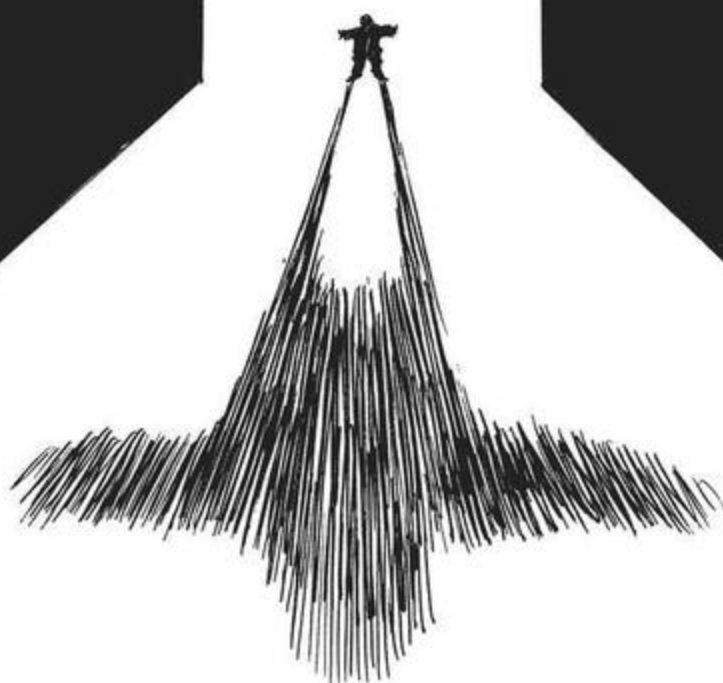




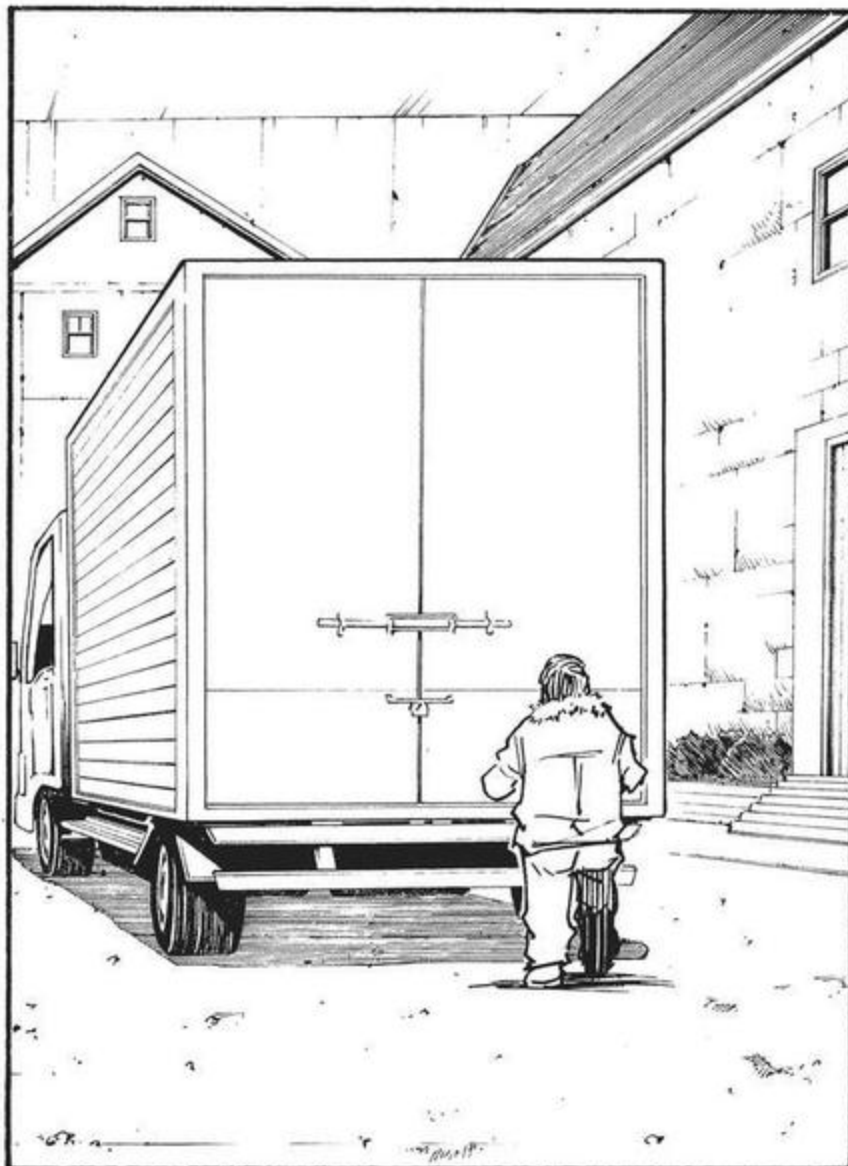
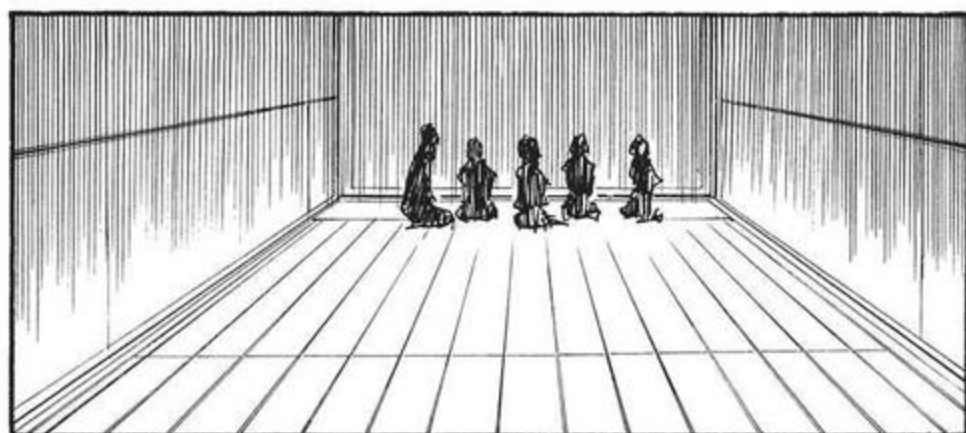
RRNNNN

MY OWN
PRIVATE
PARADISE...

...WHERE
NO ONE CAN
BOTHER
ME!!



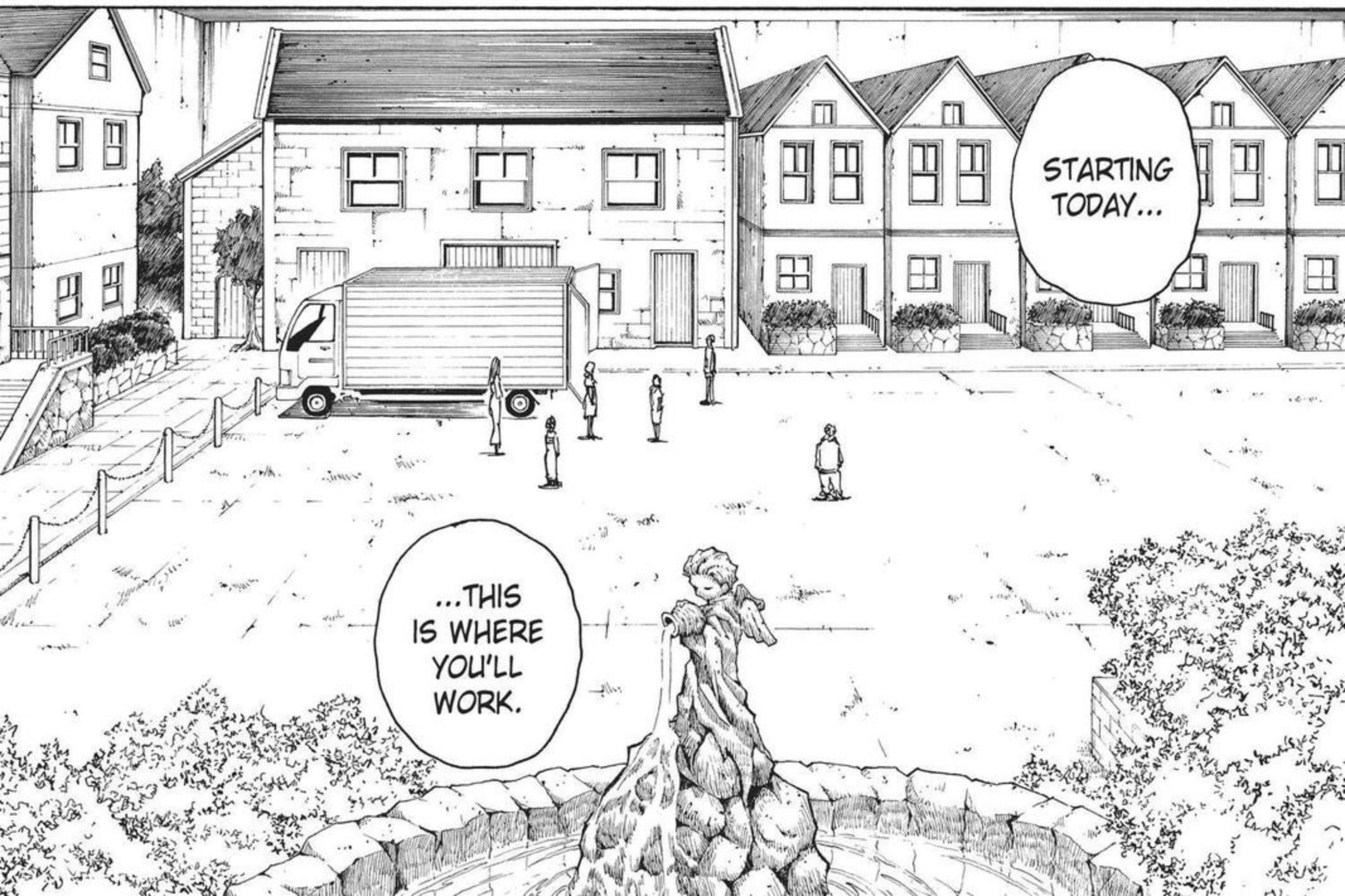
GREAK!!



NO
NEED TO
WORRY.

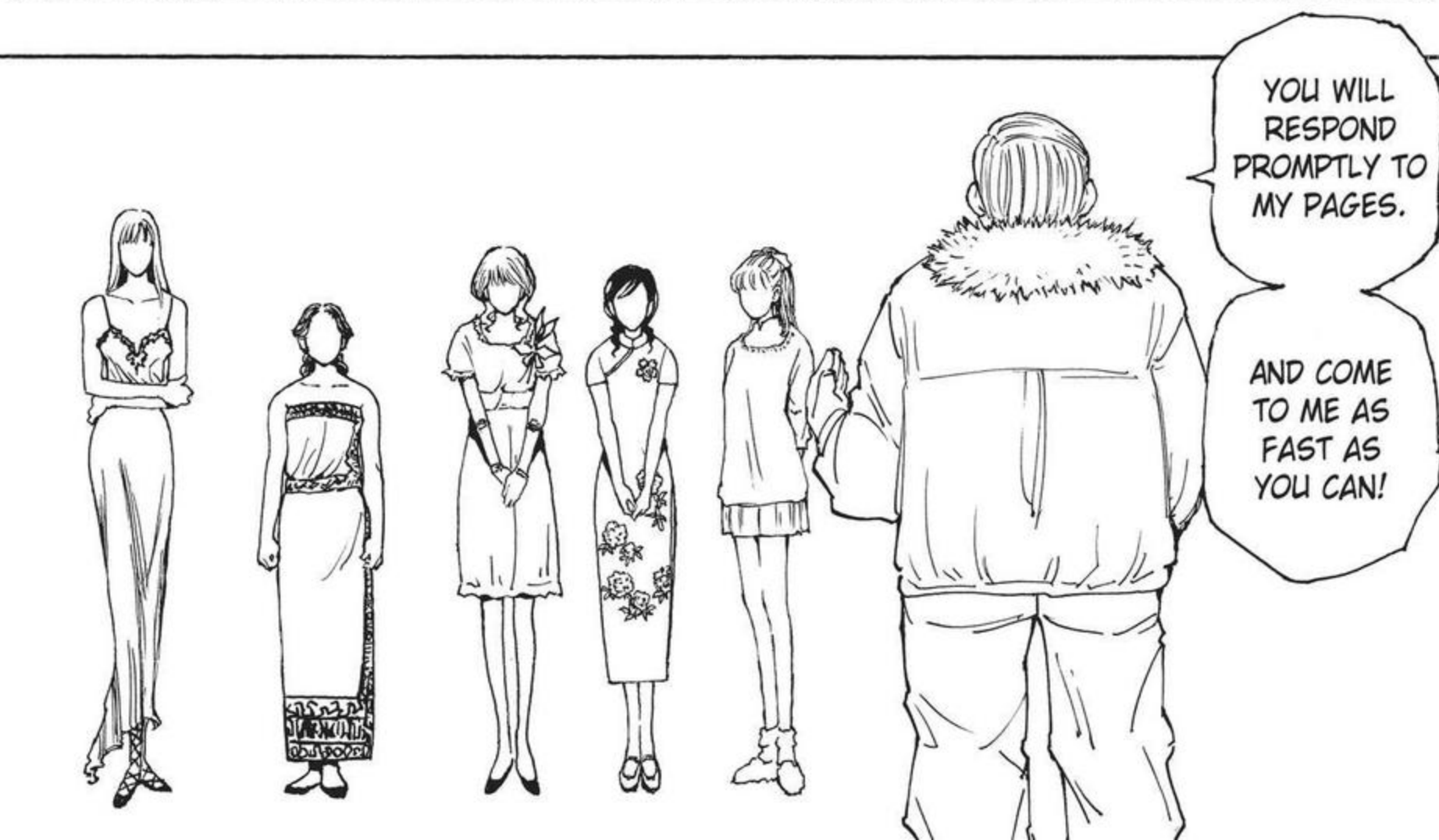
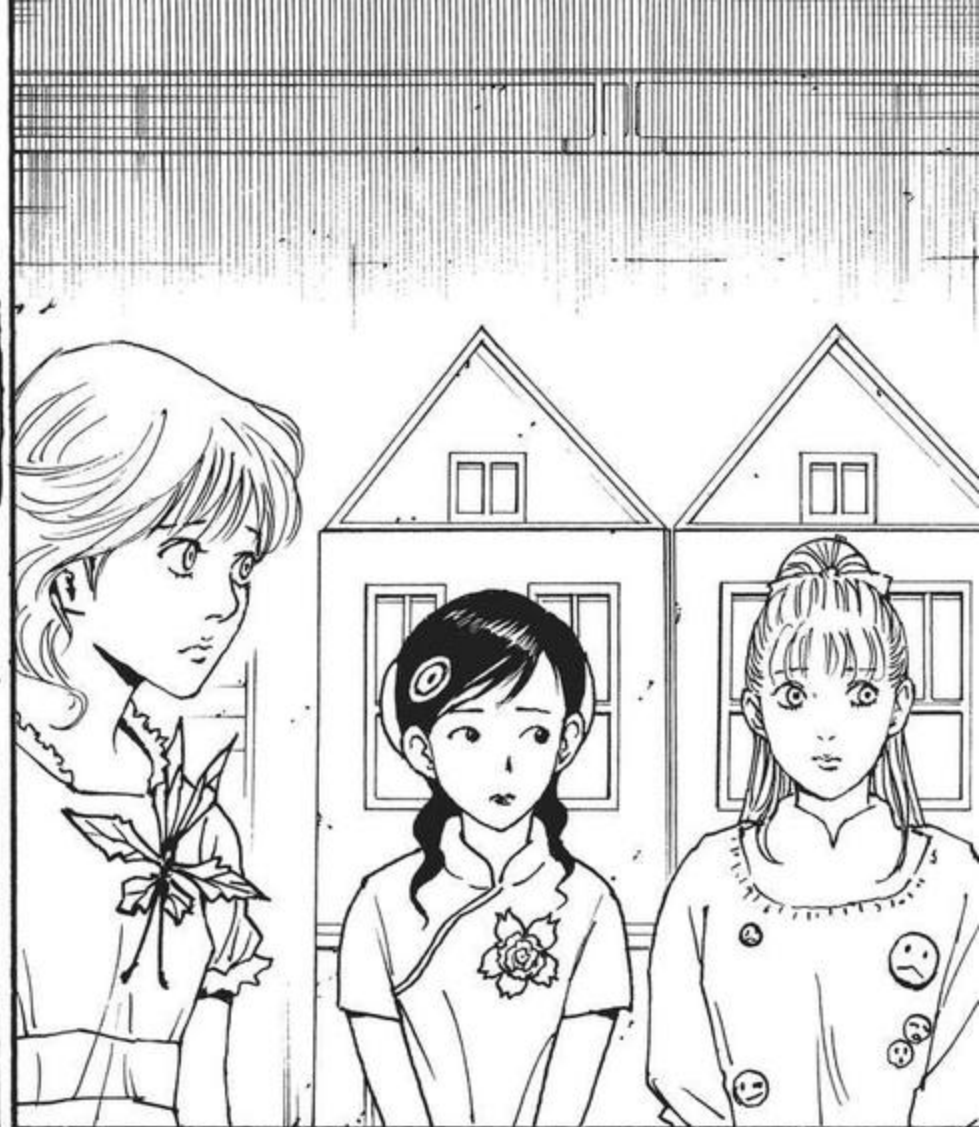
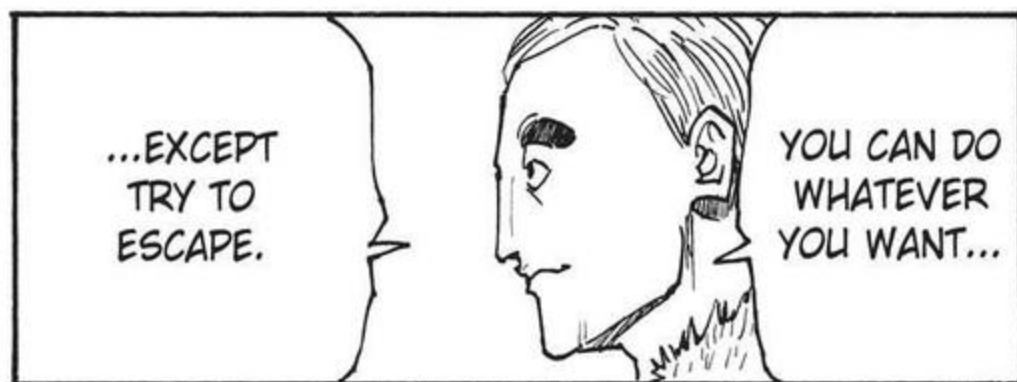


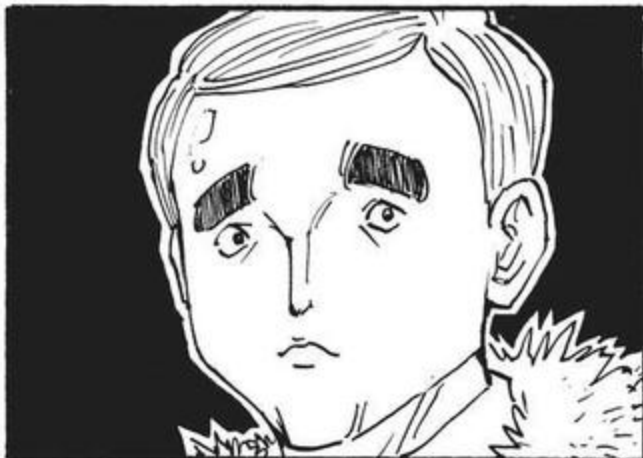
COME
ON OUT.



STARTING
TODAY...

...THIS
IS WHERE
YOU'LL
WORK.





YES,
DIRECTOR!!

VERY
GOOD.



YOU...



YES
SIR!!

EVERYONE
ELSE, WAIT
IN YOUR
ROOMS.

COME
WITH ME.



WE
CAUGHT THE
DIRECTOR'S
FANCY!!

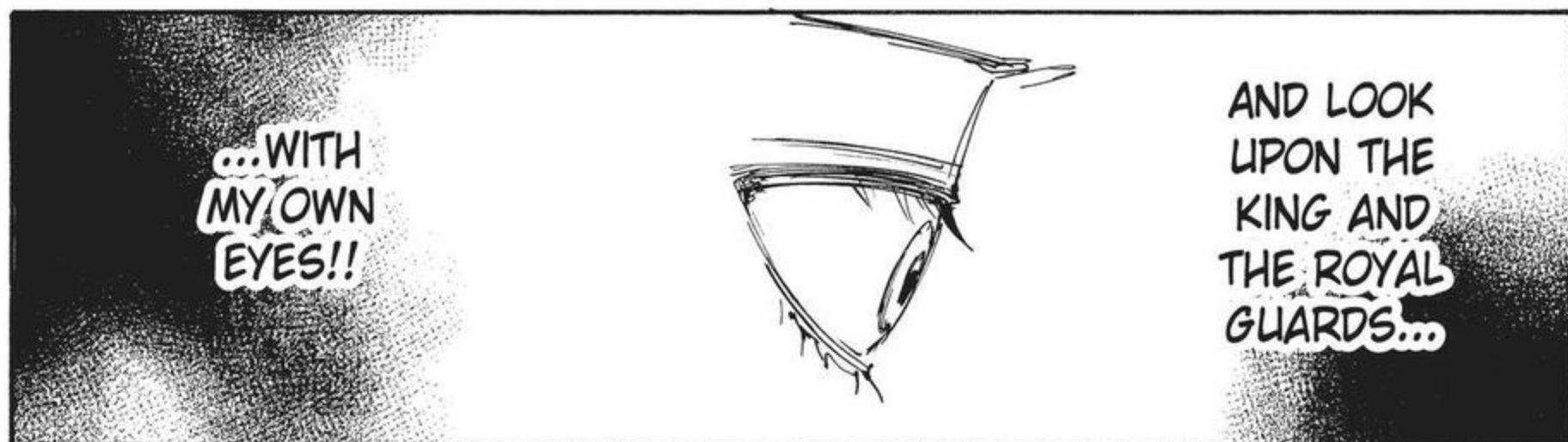
WE DID
IT...WE
MADE THE
CUT.





...SOMEHOW...

I HAVE
TO SLIP
OUT OF
HERE...



...WITH
MY OWN
EYES!!

AND LOOK
UPON THE
KING AND
THE ROYAL
GUARDS...



ONCE PALM HAS
SEEN A PERSON
WITH HER OWN
EYES, SHE CAN
OBSERVE THEM
WITH HER CRYSTAL
BALL AT ANY TIME.

WITH THIS ABILITY, THE
HUNTERS WILL BE ABLE
TO CHECK ON THE KING
AND THE ROYAL
GUARDS, ENABLING
THEM TO MAKE CRITICAL
DECISIONS AT CRUNCH
TIME WITHOUT SECOND-
GUESSING
THEMSELVES.

ONLY
ONE
EXIT.

I CAN'T
GET OUT
WITHOUT
BIZEFF.



A CRUCIAL
MISSION!!

...FOR THIS
WOULD GREATLY
INCREASE THEIR
CHANCES OF
SUCCESS.

GRD

...BUT
SHOULD I
FAIL...

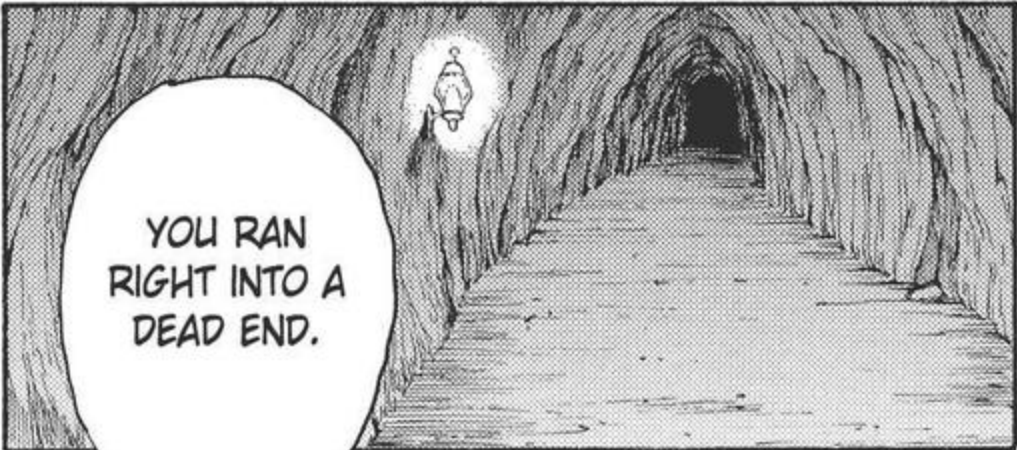
WHAT'S MOST
IMPORTANT...IS
NOT SUCCEEDING
AT ALL COSTS...

I MUST
END MY
LIFE
QUICKLY!!

IF I'M
CAUGHT...



FSS HHH HHH



YOU RAN
RIGHT INTO A
DEAD END.



HEH HEH.
NOT KNOWING
YOUR WAY
AROUND JUST
COST YOU.

Chapter 253: 6: Part 10

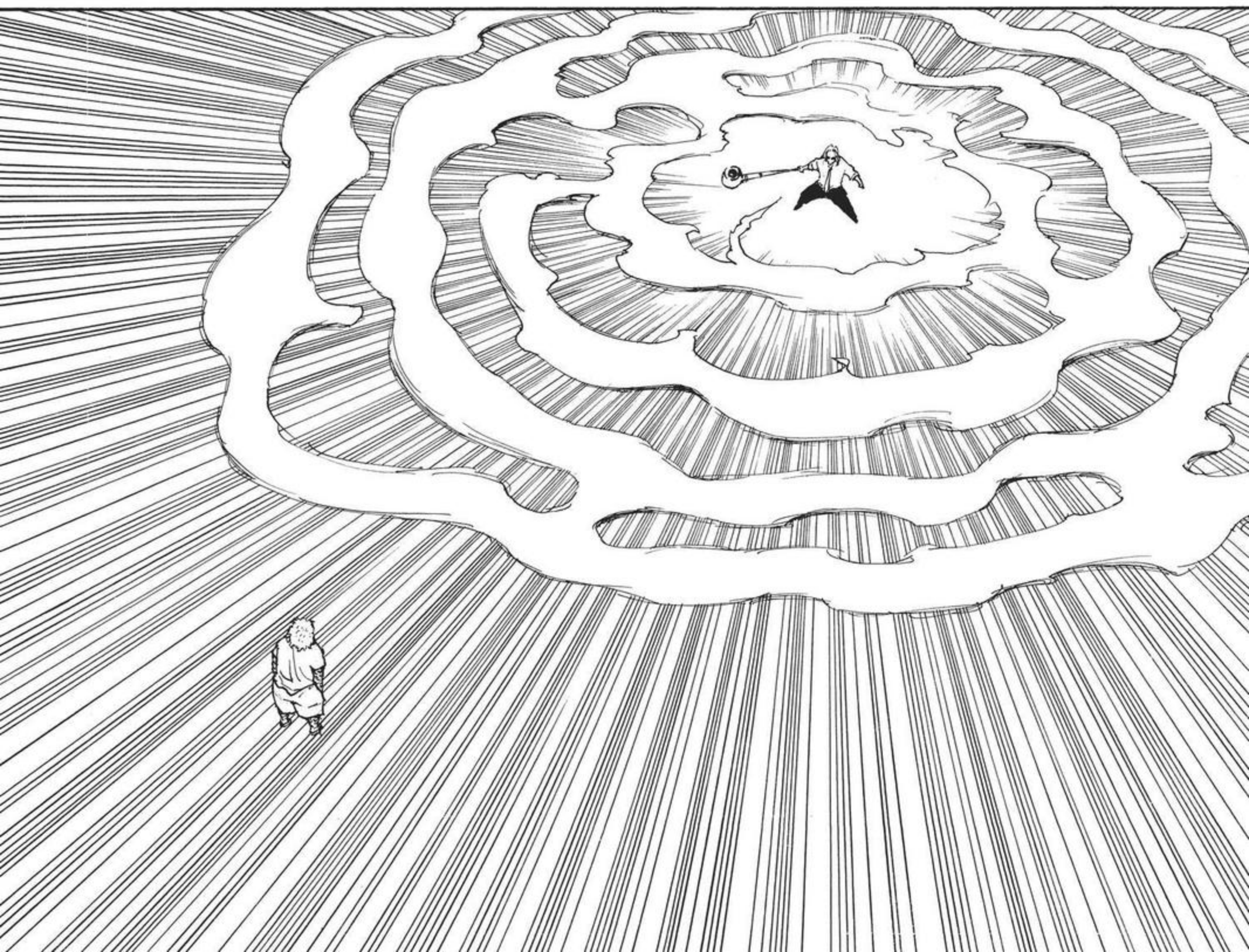
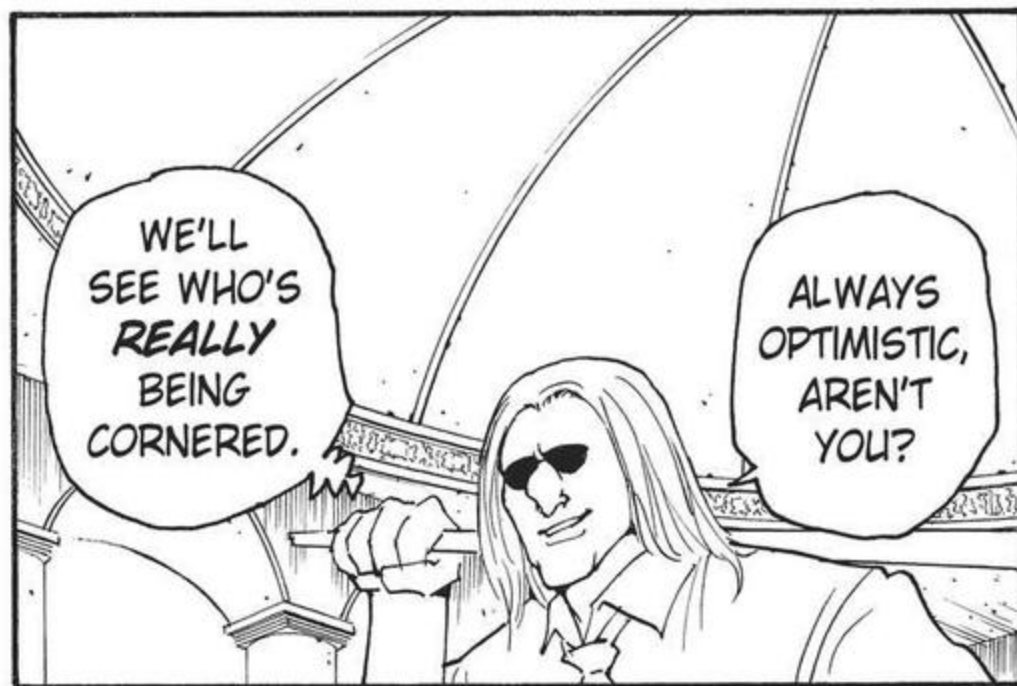


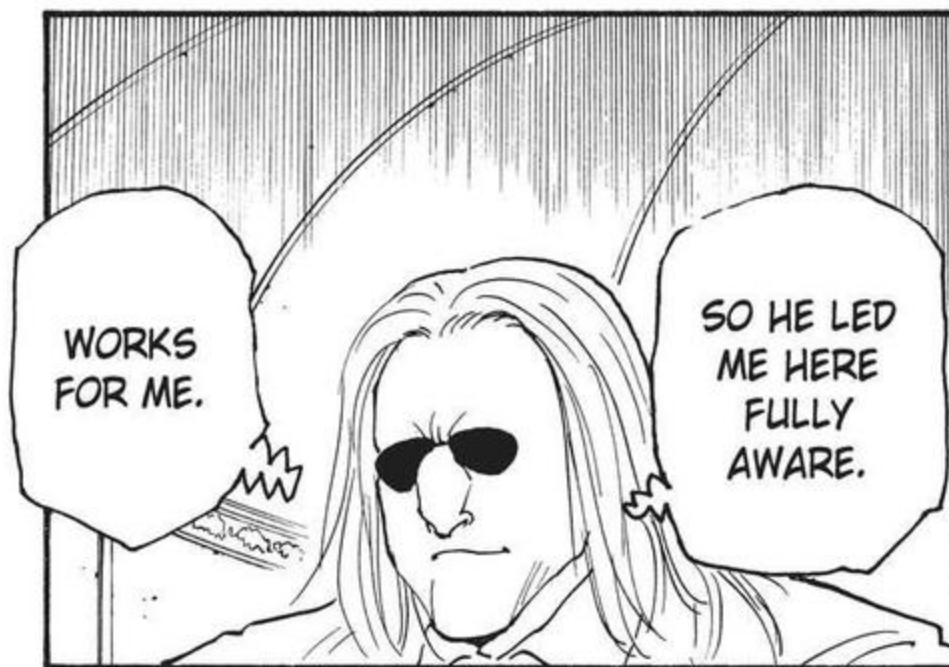
AND INTO
AN UNDER-
GROUND
CHAPEL.

TOO
GOOD
TO BE
TRUE.

THE
PERFECT
PLACE FOR
YOU TO DIE
A VIOLENT
DEATH.

THIS IS
USED AS AN
EMERGENCY
BOMB
SHELTER.





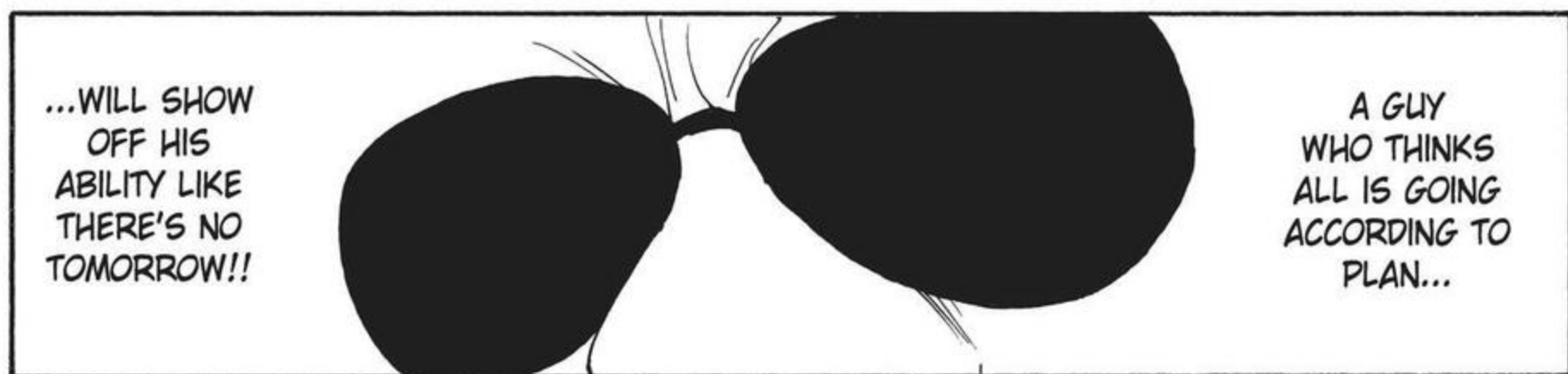
WORKS
FOR ME.

SO HE LED
ME HERE
FULLY
AWARE.



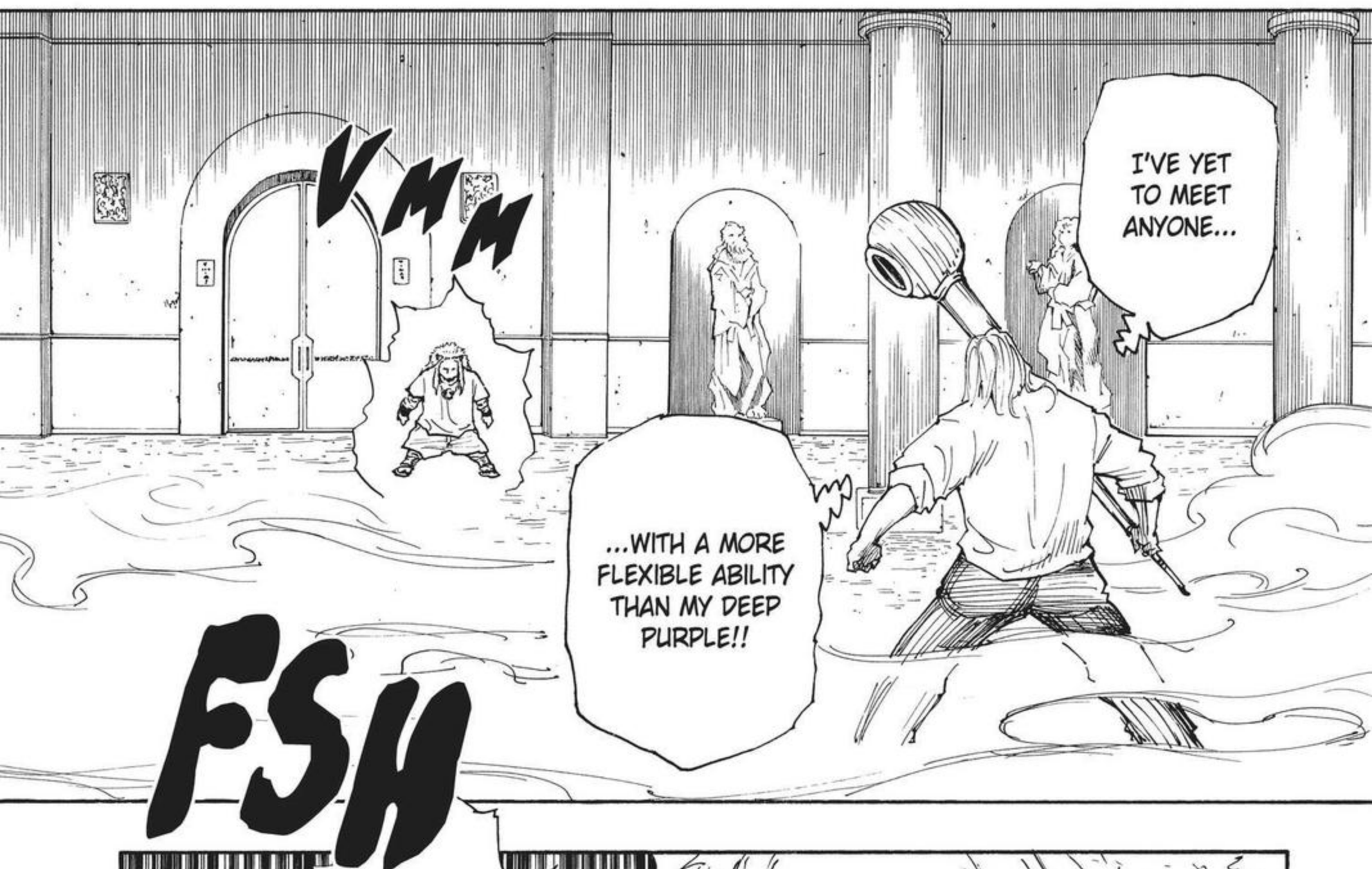
YOU CAN
FORM THAT
INTO LOTS
OF STUFF.

CHEETU
TOLD ME...



...WILL SHOW
OFF HIS
ABILITY LIKE
THERE'S NO
TOMORROW!!

A GUY
WHO THINKS
ALL IS GOING
ACCORDING TO
PLAN...



I'VE YET
TO MEET
ANYONE...

...WITH A MORE
FLEXIBLE ABILITY
THAN MY DEEP
PURPLE!!



BUT THAT'S
NOT HOW A
MAN FIGHTS.

YEAH, SO IT MAY
BE WISER TO
ATTACK BEFORE
HE SHOWS HIS
ABILITY.

THE MOMENT
OPPONENTS
SHOWCASE
EACH ONE'S
ABILITIES!!

I FEEL A
TINGLING
UP MY
SPINE.

IT'S
ADDICTIVE.

?!

CHK

THEIR
SECOND
ALBUM
IS THE
COOLEST.

EVER
HEARD OF
THE BAND
BLACK
PLANET?

AT THE END,
YOU'RE LEFT WITH
THE FEELING THAT
YOU JUST READ A
GOOD NOVEL.

THE 12
SONGS
FORM A
STORY.

WILLINGLY
RESTRICTING
ONE OF YOUR
SENSES?

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

YEAH,
I KNOW.

...

IT'S
EXACTLY
60
MINUTES
LONG.

AND
THE BEST
THING
IS...

BIP

GREAT
ALBUM.

...RENTAL
!!

BEGIN...

RIP

ZZPPP

IT'S HARD
TO FIGHT
SOME-
ONE...

BUT I
AGREE.

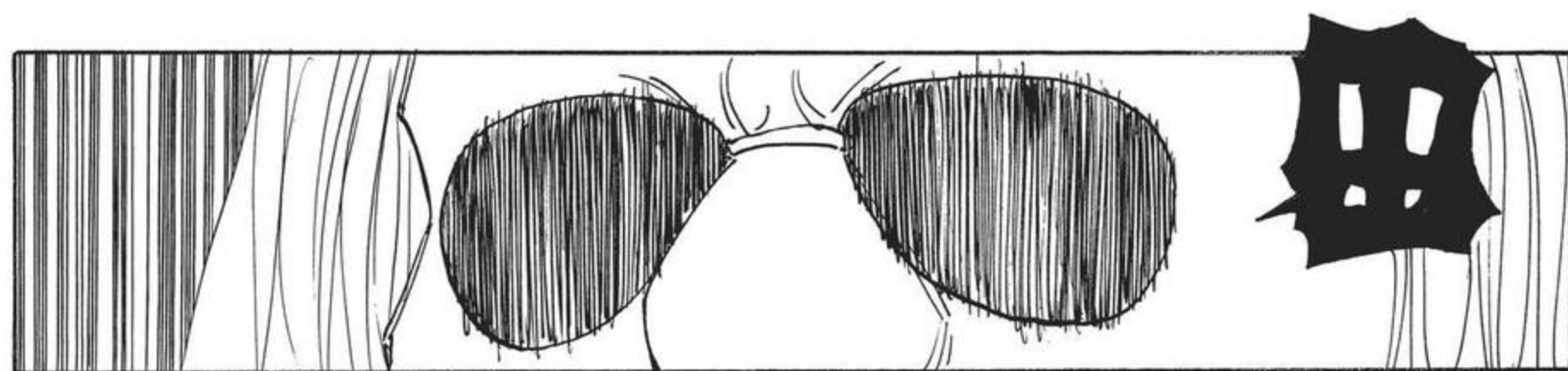


HATE
TO SAY
IT...

UH-OH.

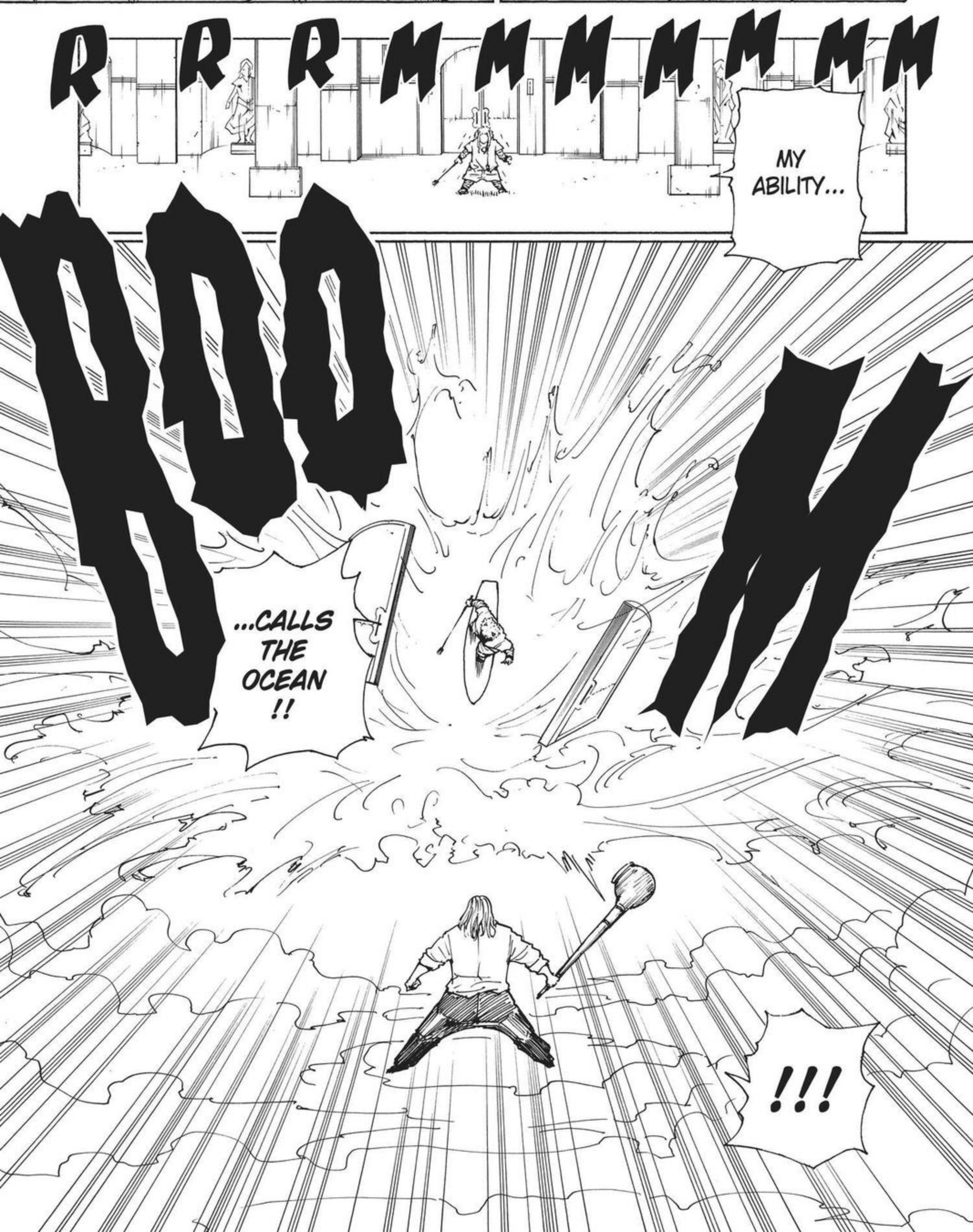
...WITH
THE
SAME
TASTES
AS
MINE
...





"TUBE":
SURF'S
UP!!

AN
ABILITY THAT
ACTIVATES
ONLY ON
RAINY DAYS
...





PSSH



THE WATER
DULLS YOUR
MOVES!!

WOO
HOO!!

YOU'LL DIE
A QUICKER
DEATH IF
YOU STAY
STILL!!

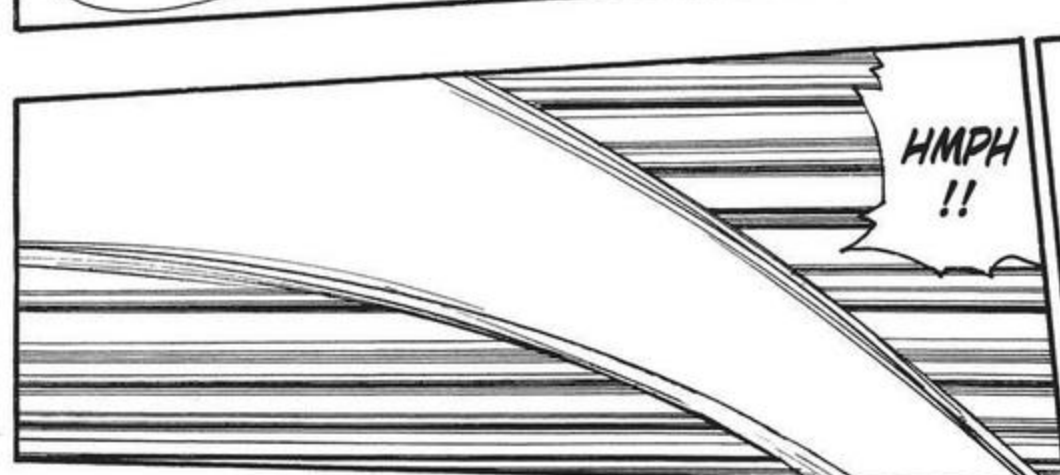
LIKE
THE TASTE
OF MY
BOARD?

THAT...!

THAT'S
NOT
YOURS!

...IS MY
FRIEND'S
ABILITY!!



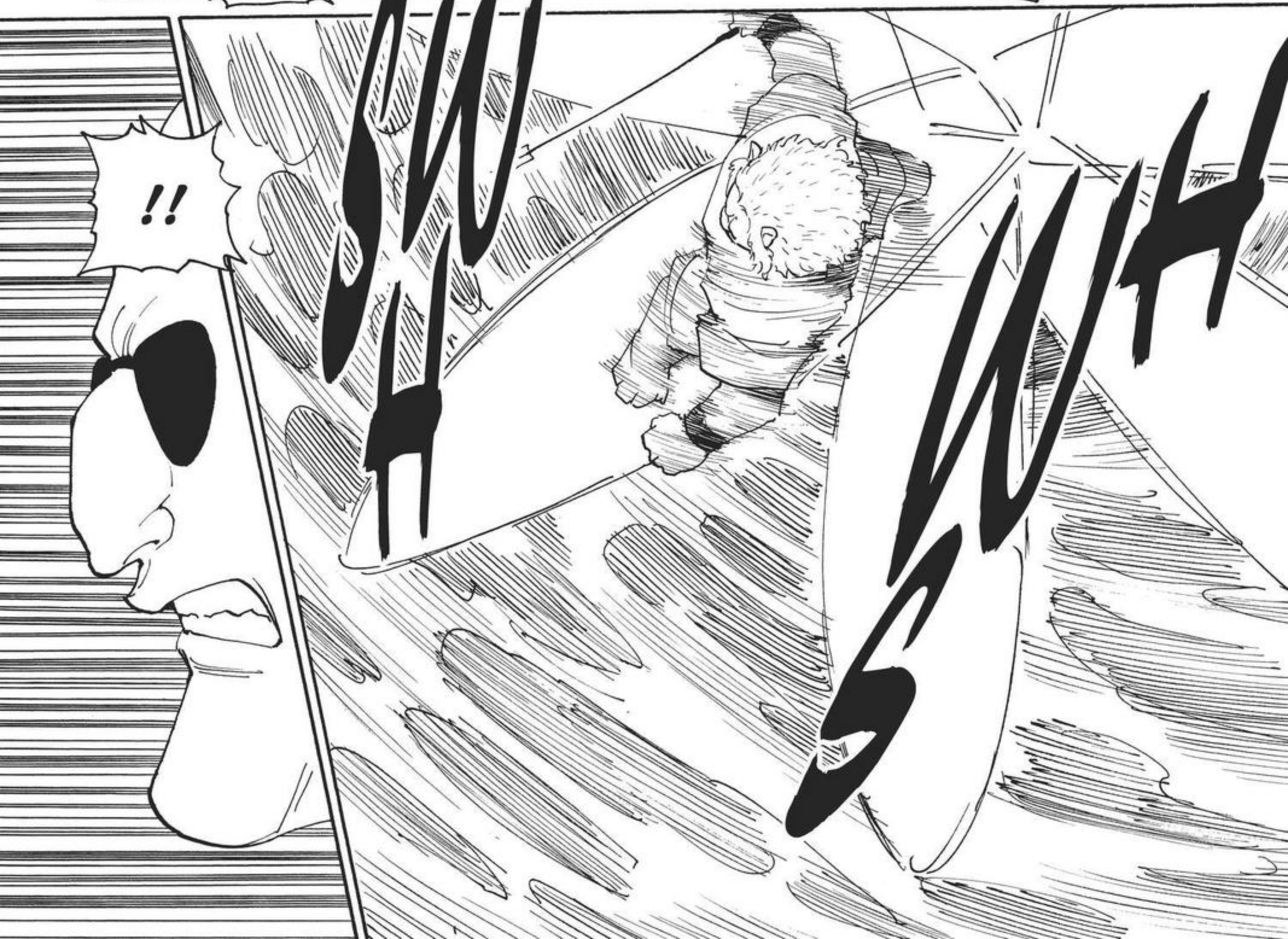


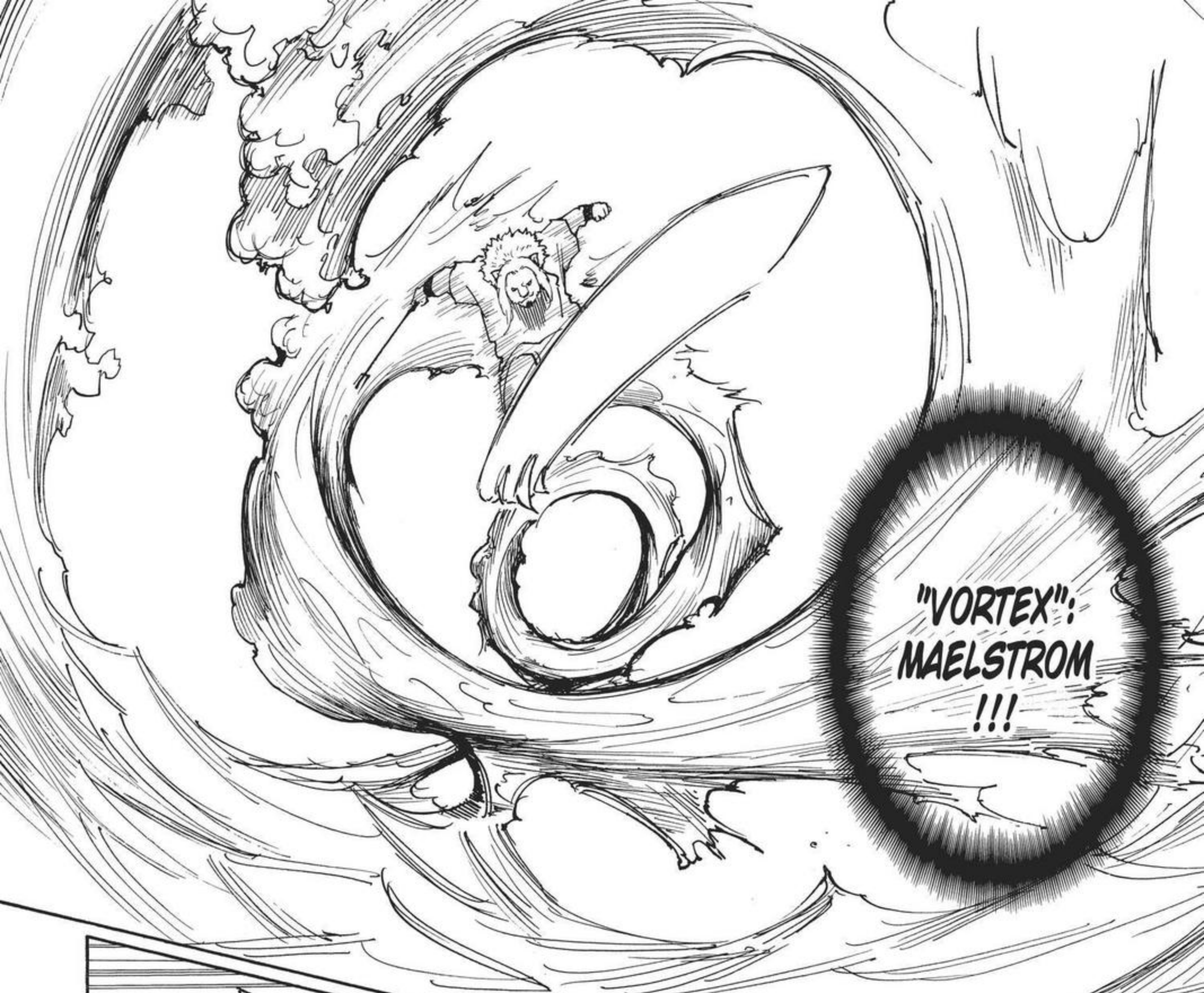
HMPH
!!

SO YOU
CAN RIDE
ON TOP OF
IT TOO.

HE MADE
A BOAT
OUT OF
SMOKE...





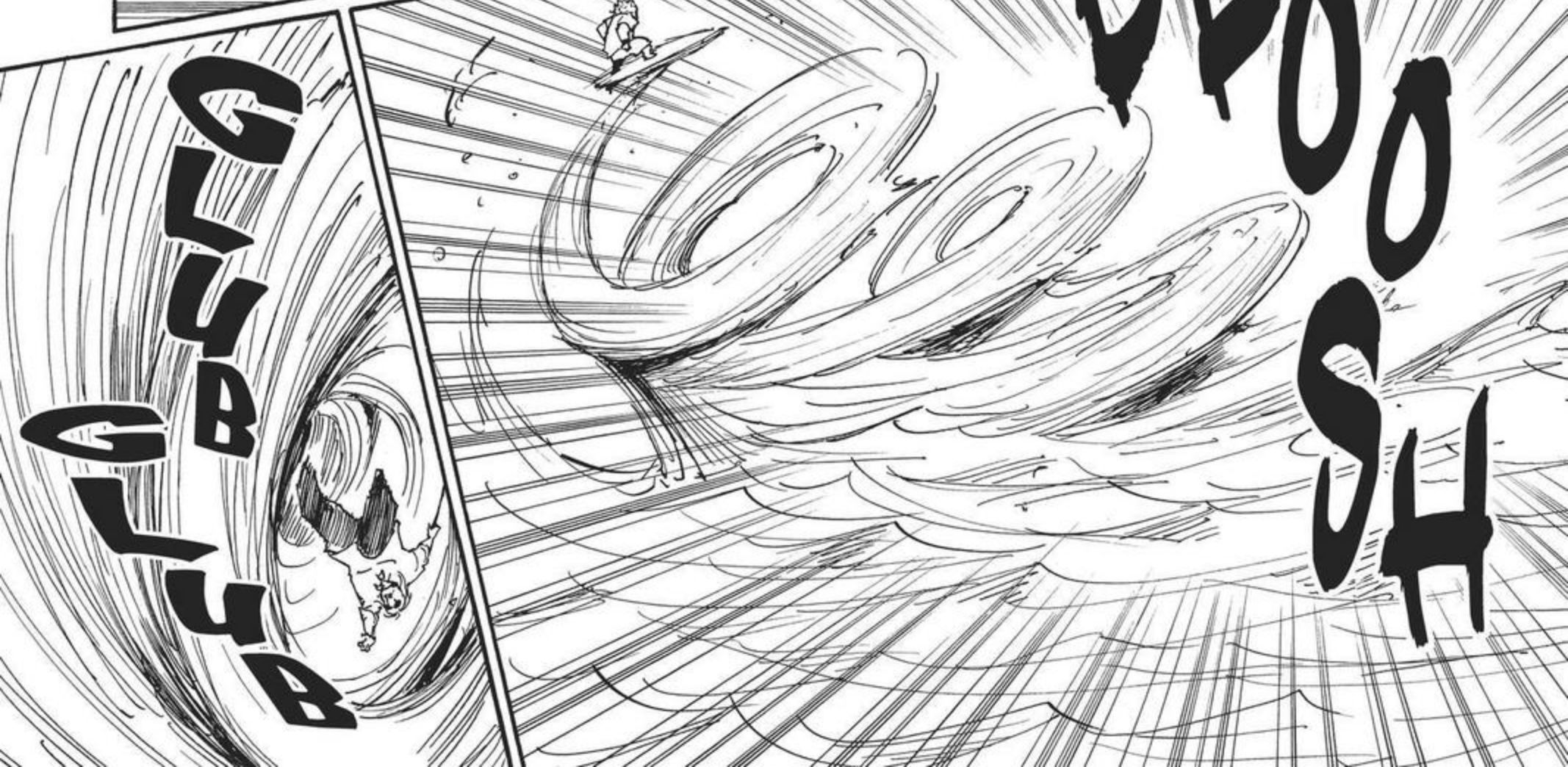


"VORTEX":
MAELSTROM
!!!



FST

UHN!



GUSH

BLOOSH



THE
CURRENT
!!

RRGH!

I CAN'T
MOVE AT
ALL!!

I CAN'T
TELL UP
FROM
DOWN!!

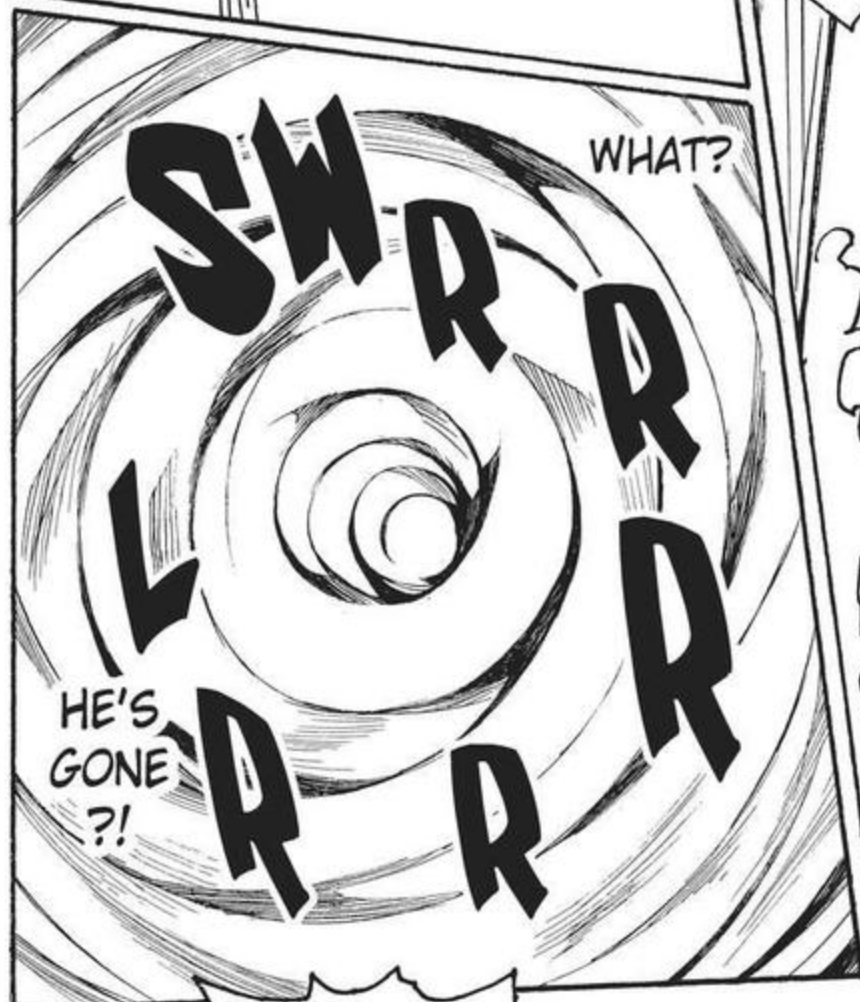


...AND FINISH
THEM OFF
FROM ABOVE
WITH THE
HARPOON!!

HERE
I GO
!!

I IMMOBILIZE
MY PREY BY
SUCKING THEM
INTO THE
WHIRLPOOL...

PLASH



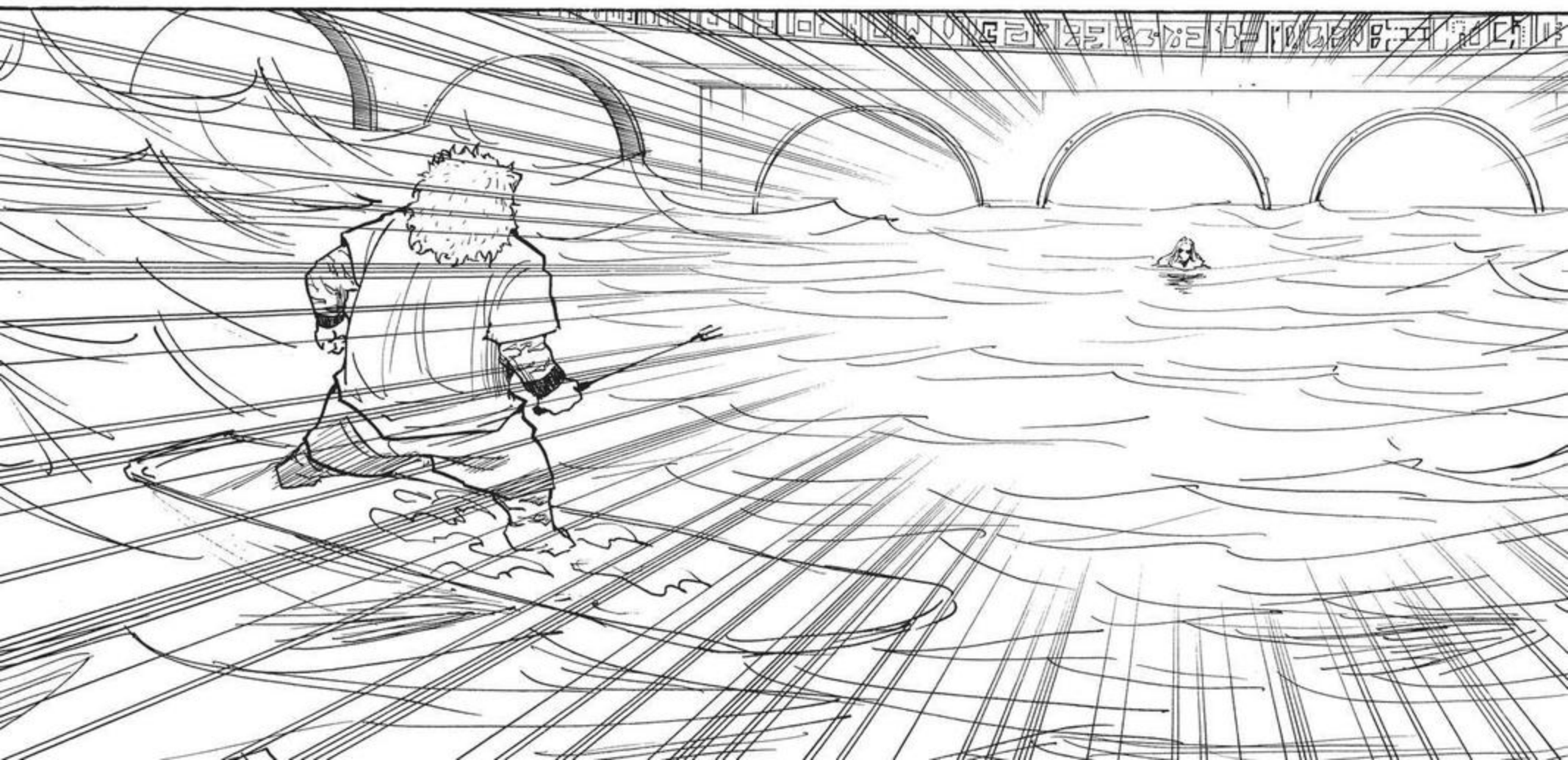
A THROW OF MY HARPOON AT SONIC SPEED CAN EVEN PIERCE A WHALE THAT'S IN THE DEEP SEA!!

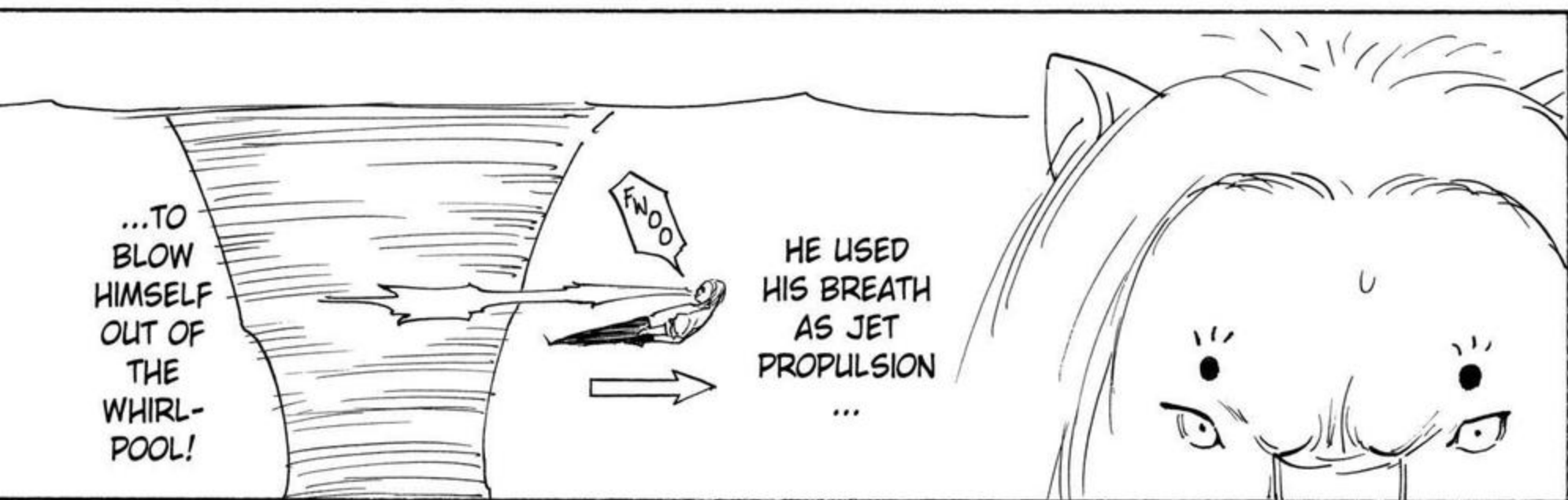


IMPOSSIBLE! THE WHIRLPOOL SHOULD HAVE KEPT HIM TRAPPED!

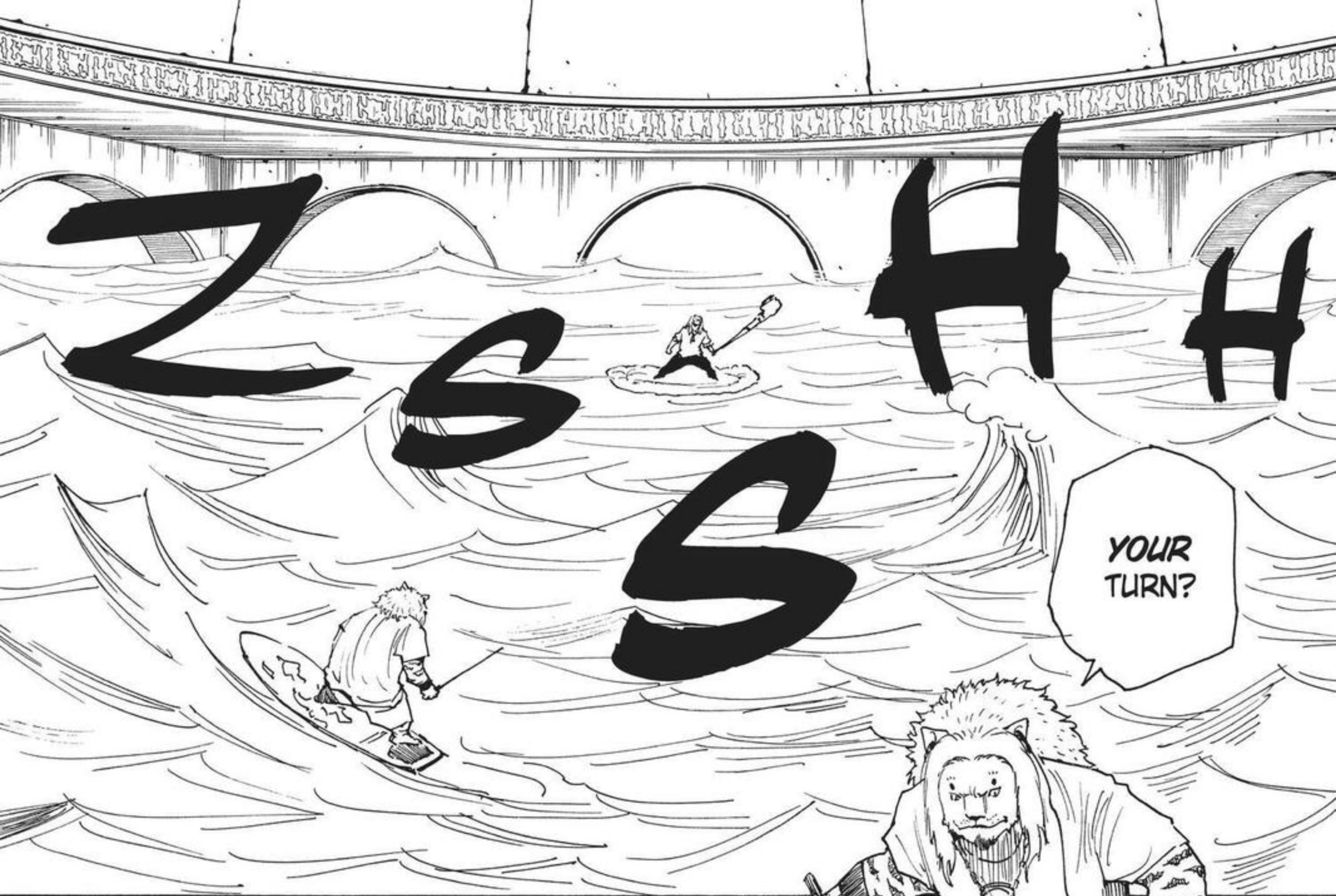


PLSH









YOU'LL ONLY GET SWALLOWED BY MY WAVES.



YOU DON'T GET ANY TURNS.



...I LEARNED IN THIS EXCHANGE.

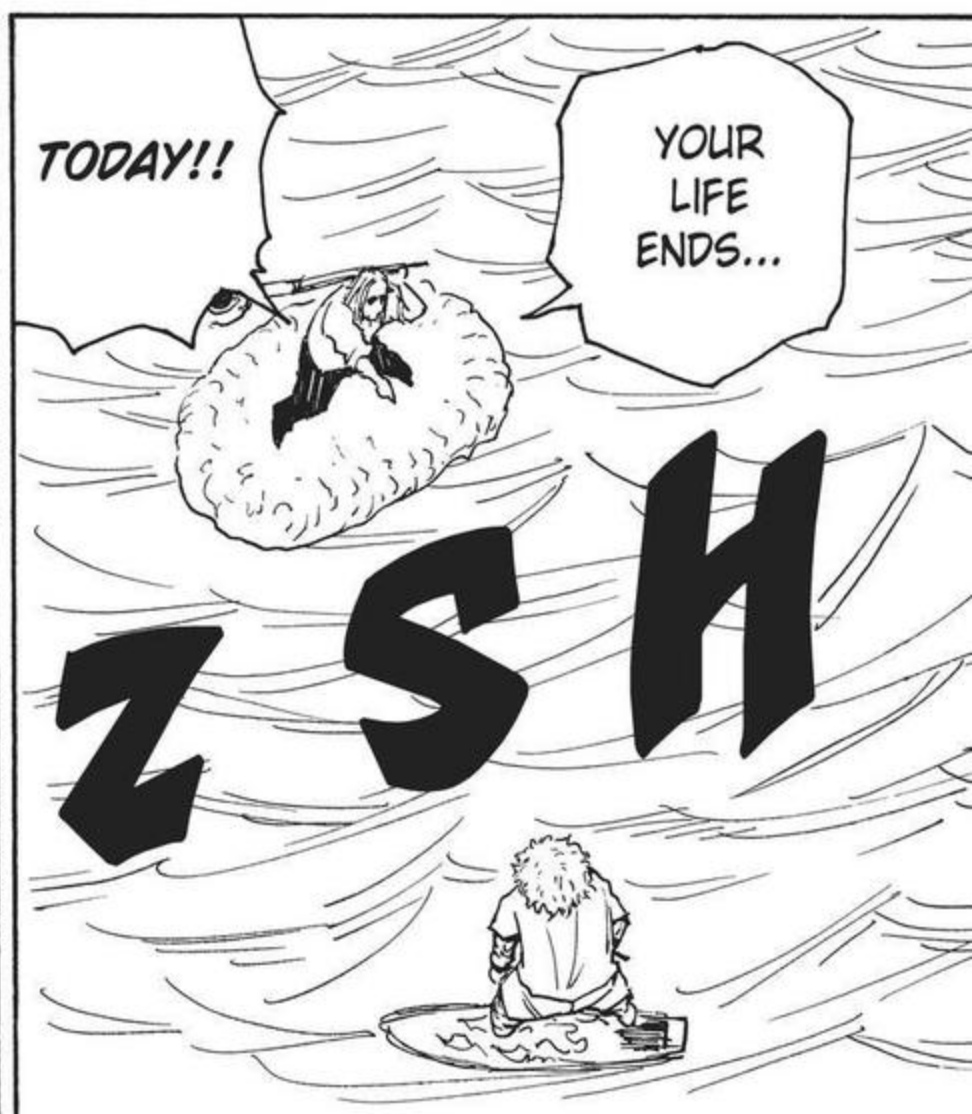
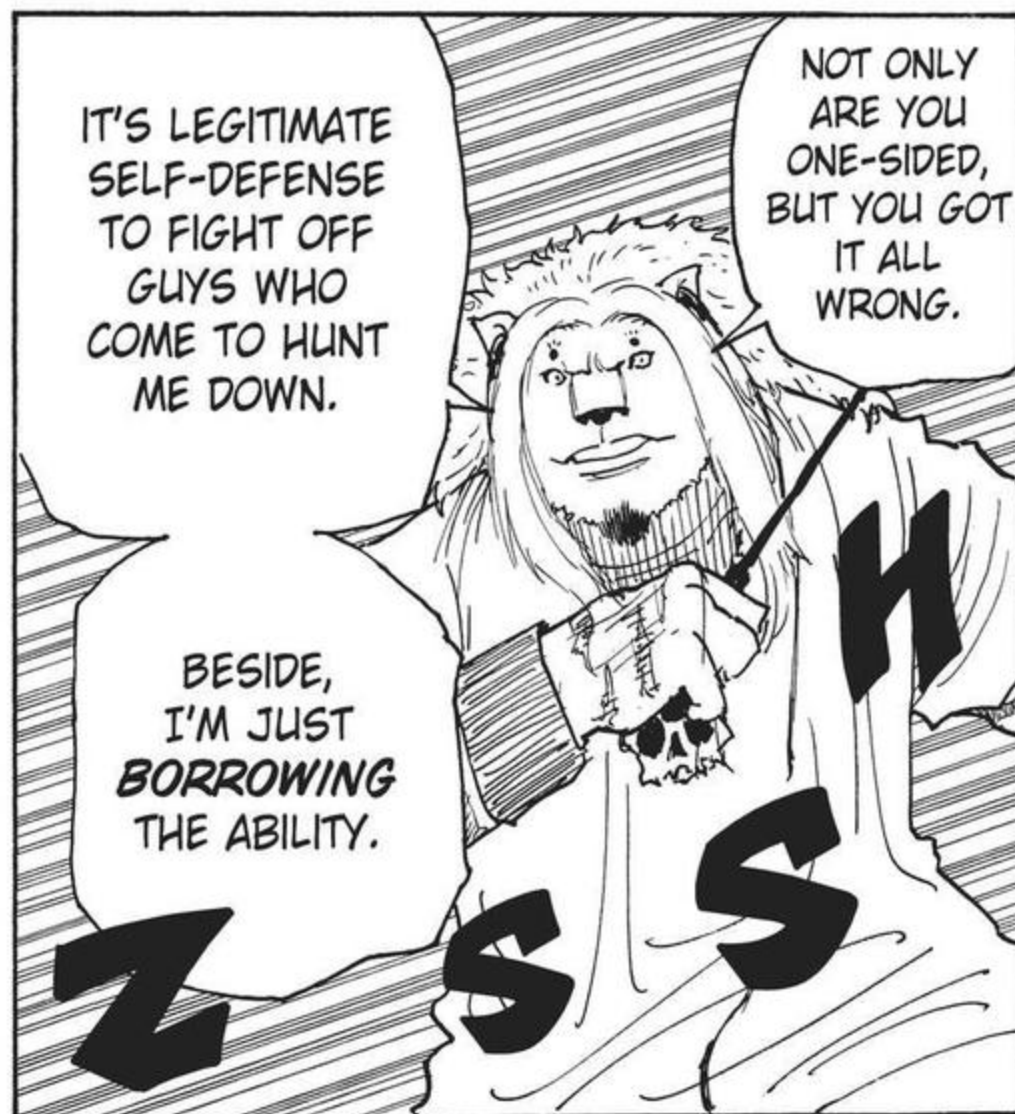
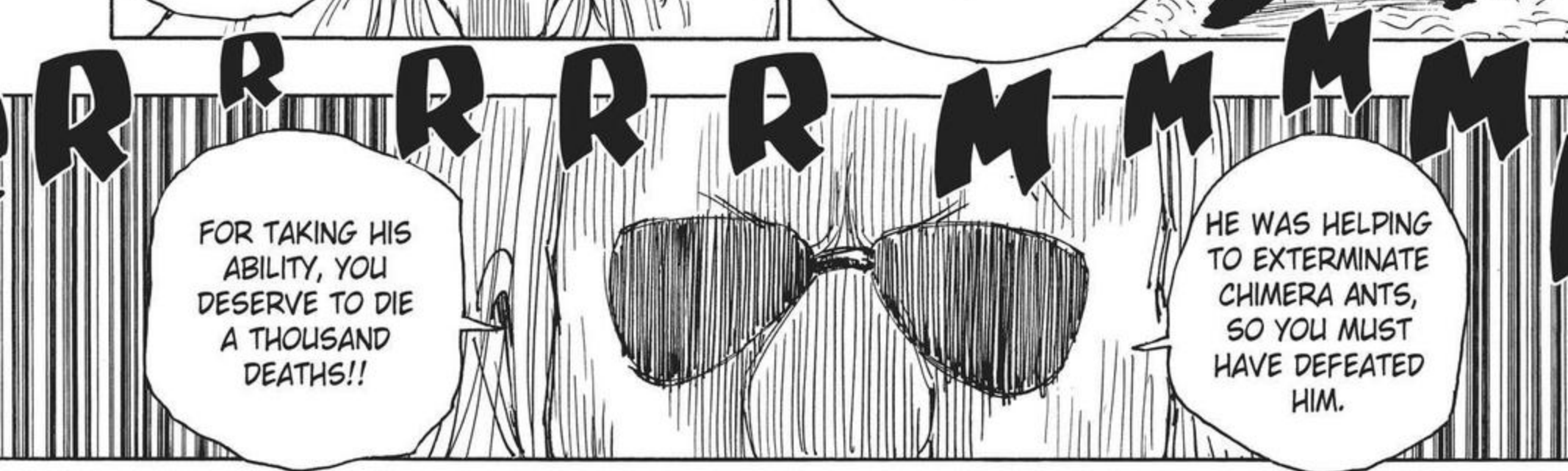
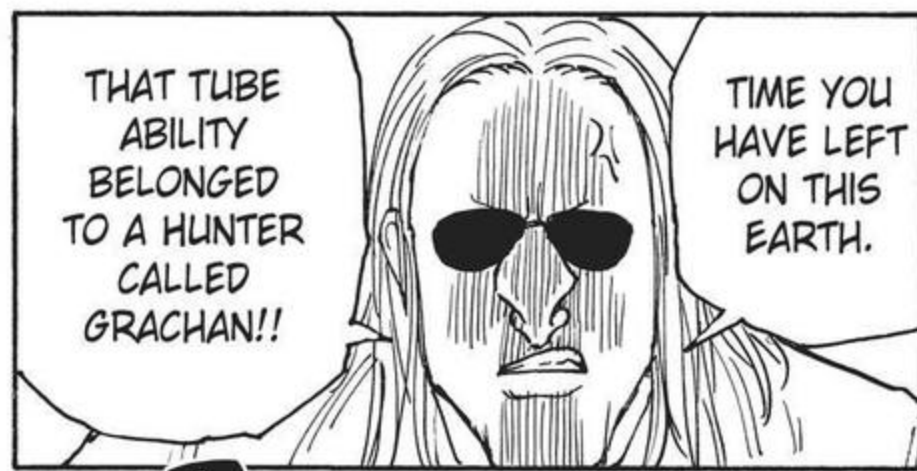
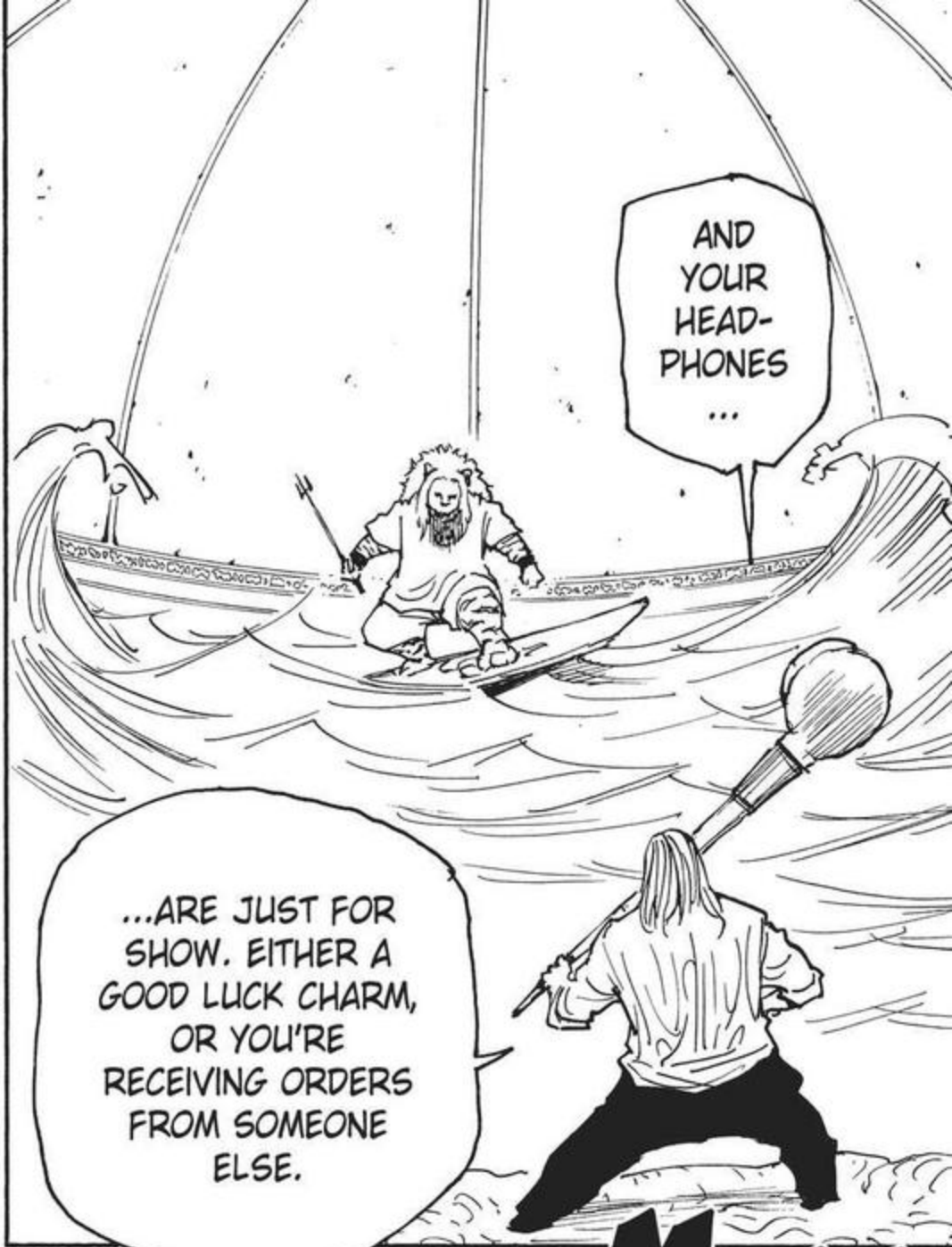
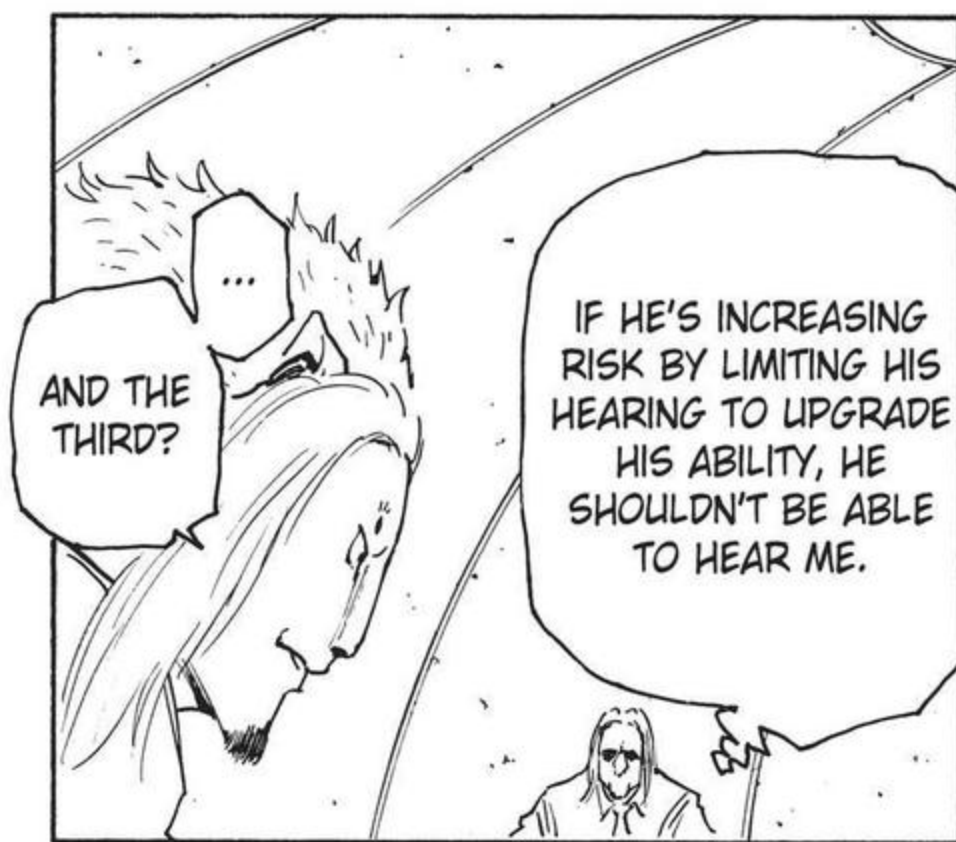
THERE ARE THREE THINGS...

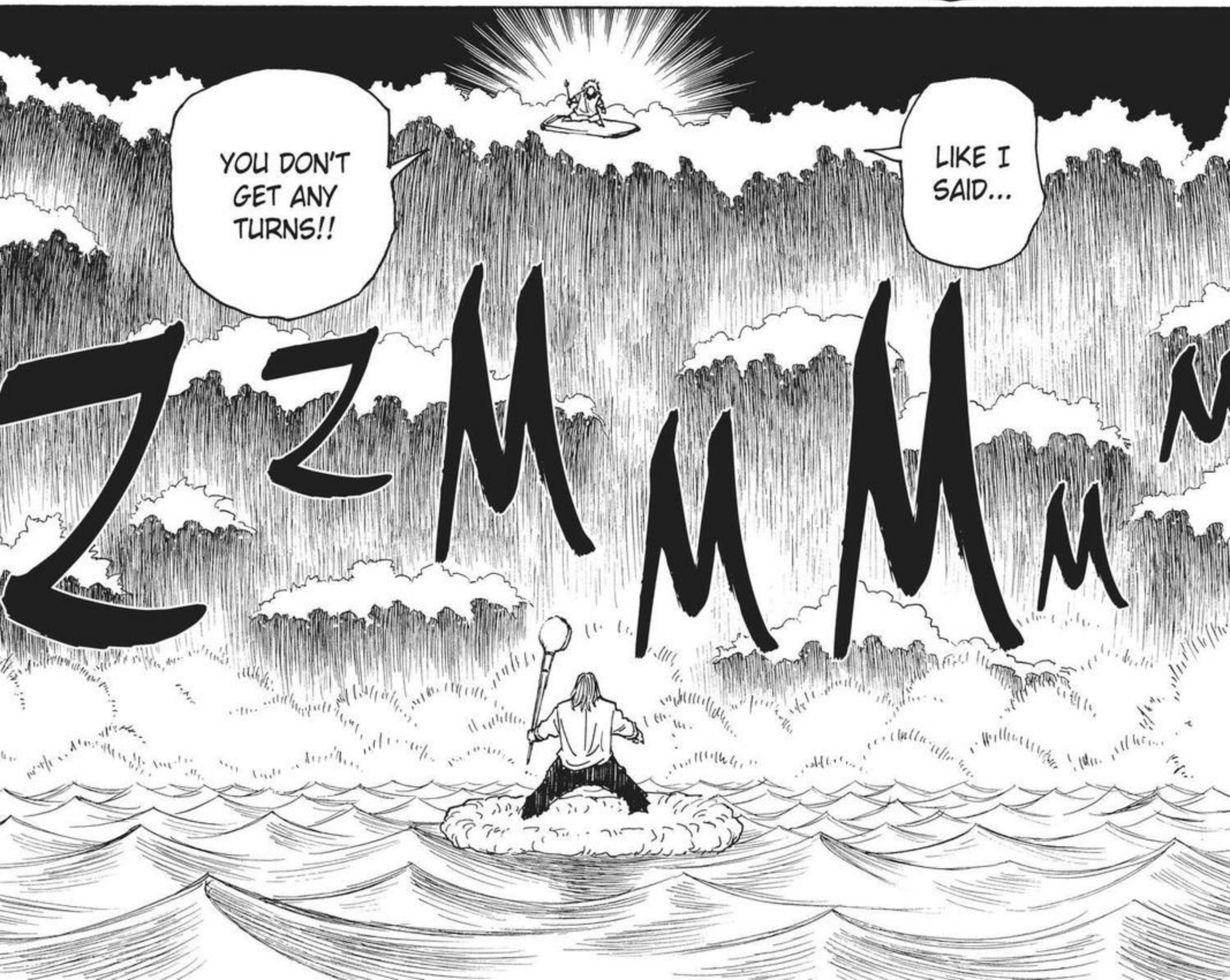
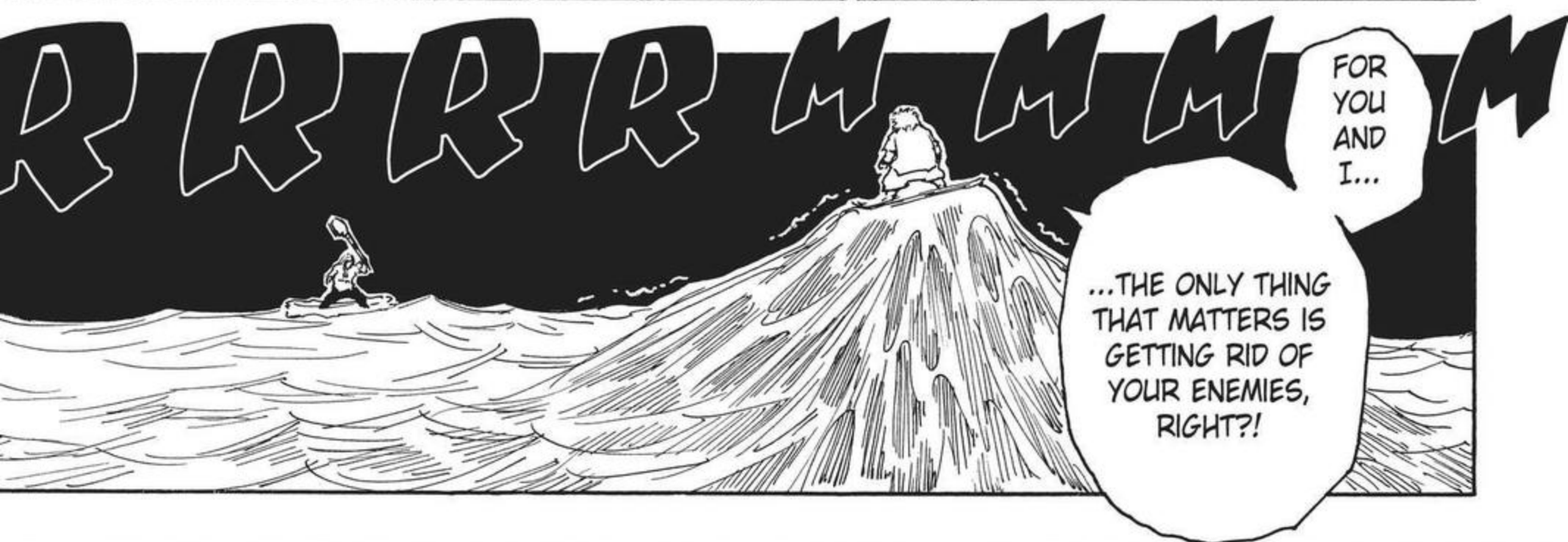


...IS ONE THAT USES OTHER PEOPLE'S ABILITIES SOMEHOW.



YOUR ABILITY...





FFT

"TSUNAMI":
HEAVY
POUNDER
!!!

A WALL
OF WATER
CAN ONLY
SWALLOW
YOU IN THIS
SEALED
CHAMBER!!

JUST TRY
TO GET
OUT OF
THIS
ONE!!

WASH

KBLOSH

SHOOM

WHICH WILL IT BE?! YOUR HEAD SPLIT IN TWO BY MY BOARD?! OR BEING GORED BY MY HARPOON?!

DOO H

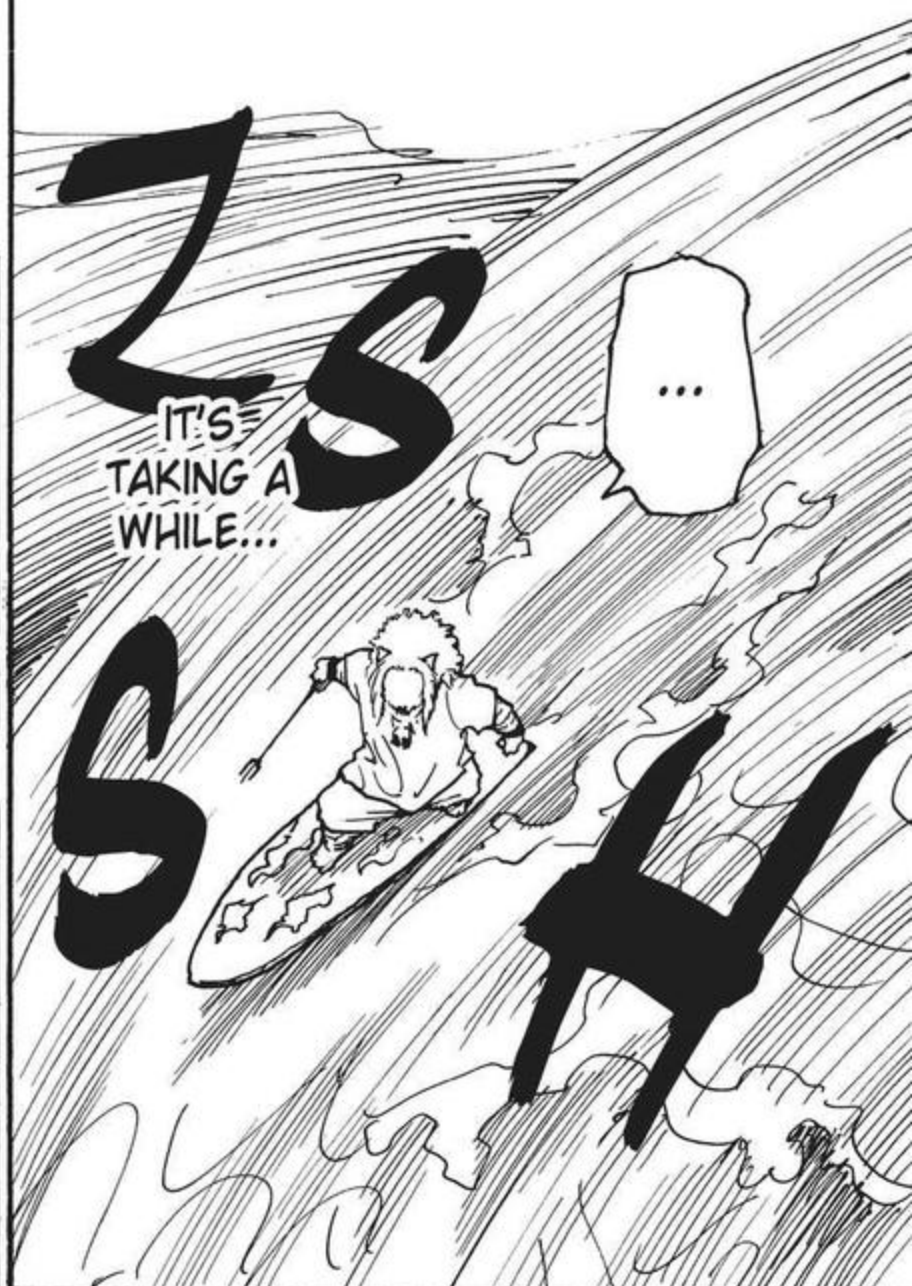
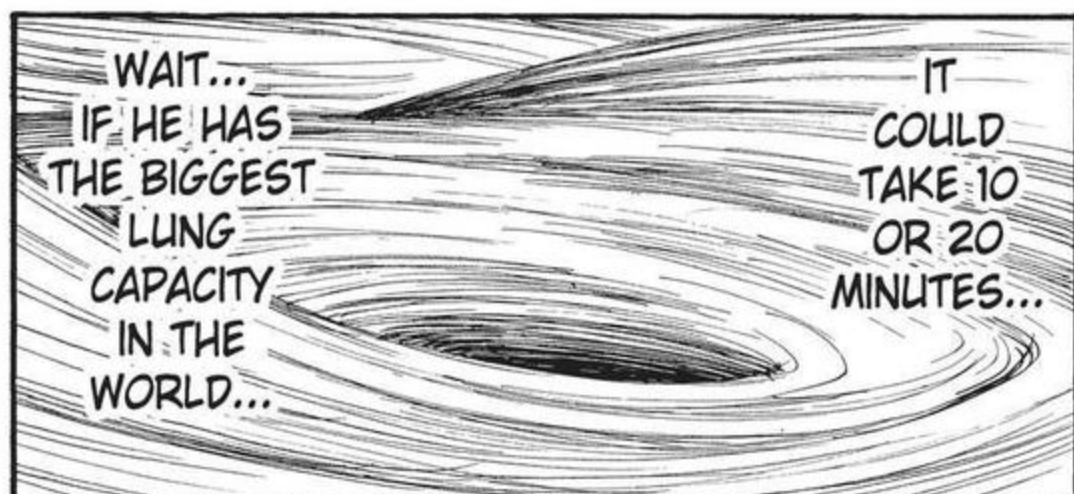
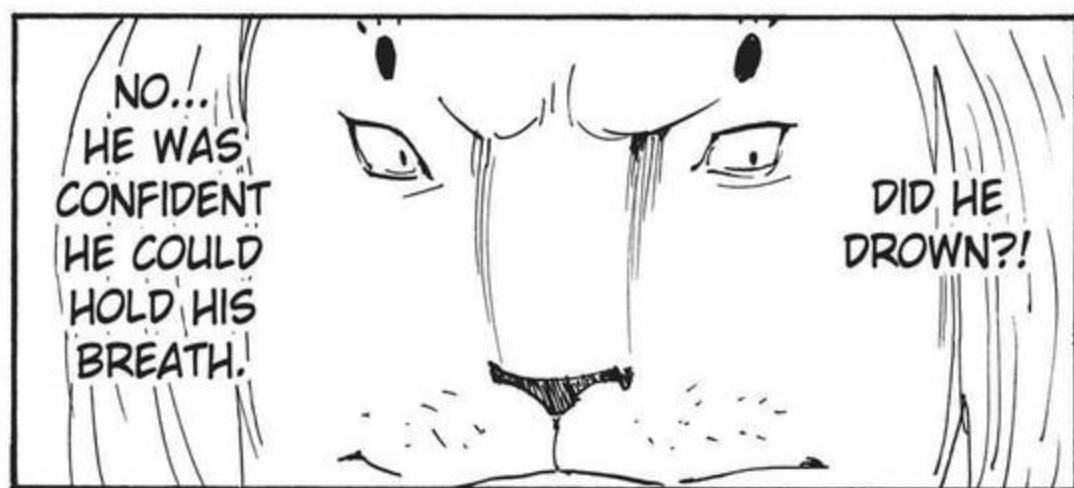
CAN YOU EVEN COME UP?!

...THE NEXT TIME YOU SHOW YOUR STUPID FACE WILL BE YOUR LAST !!

EITHER WAY...

GLUB

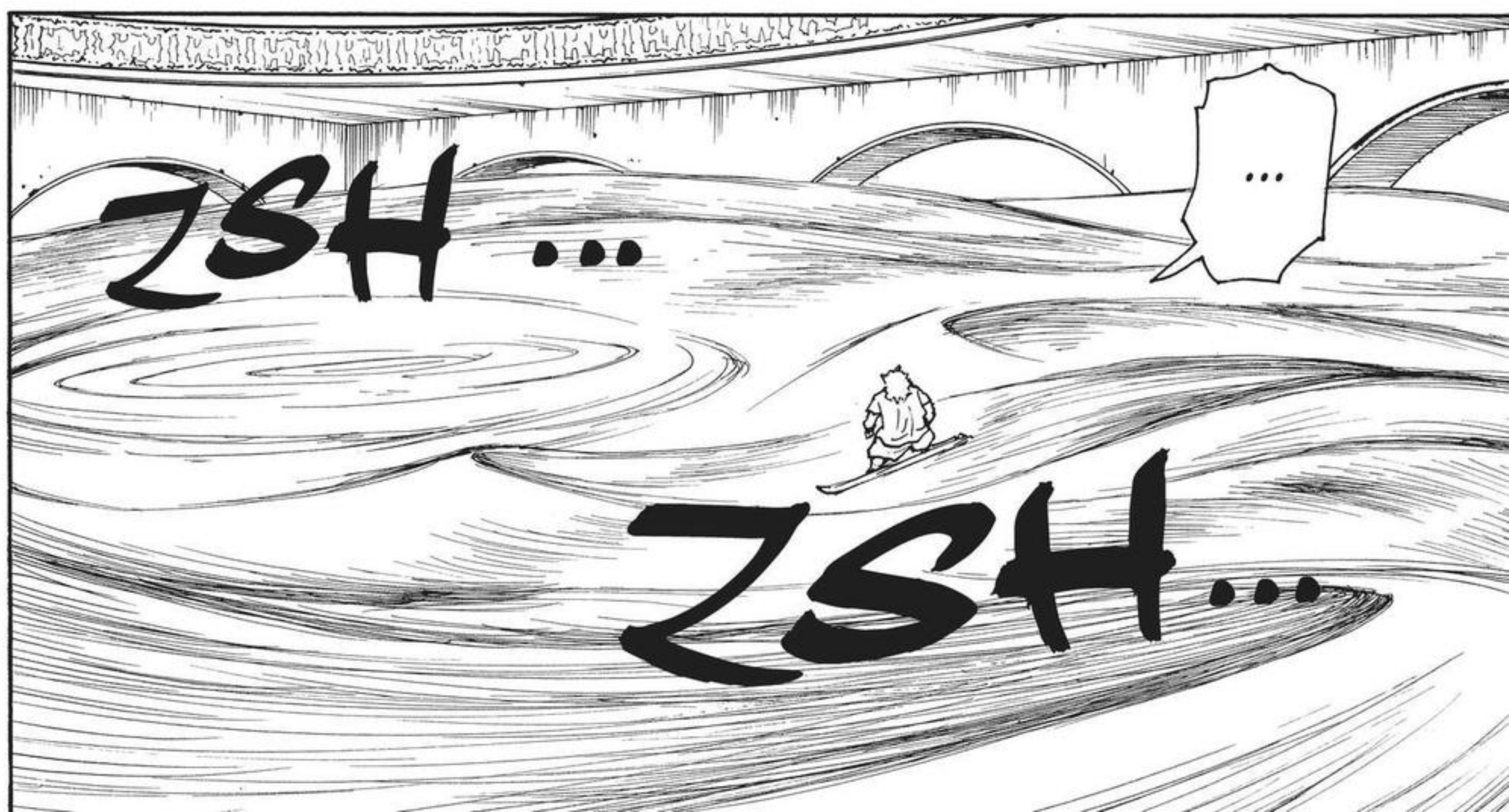
ZSSSH

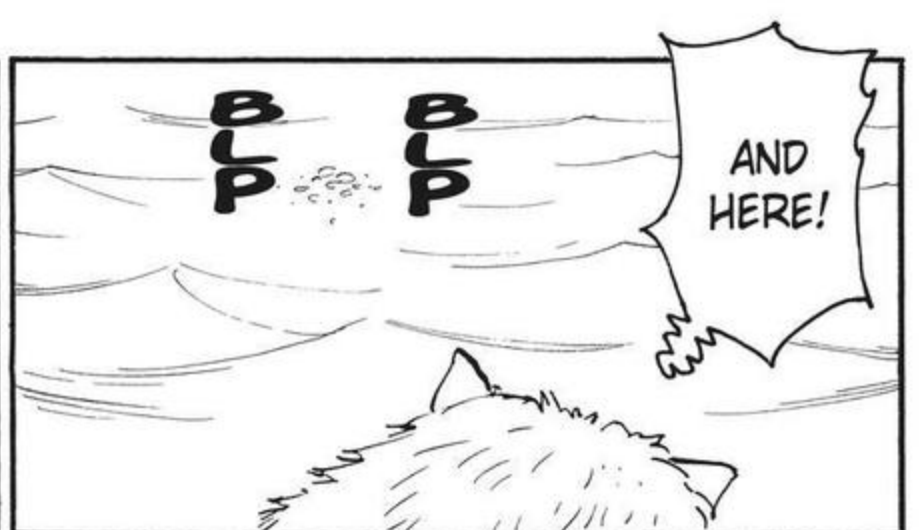
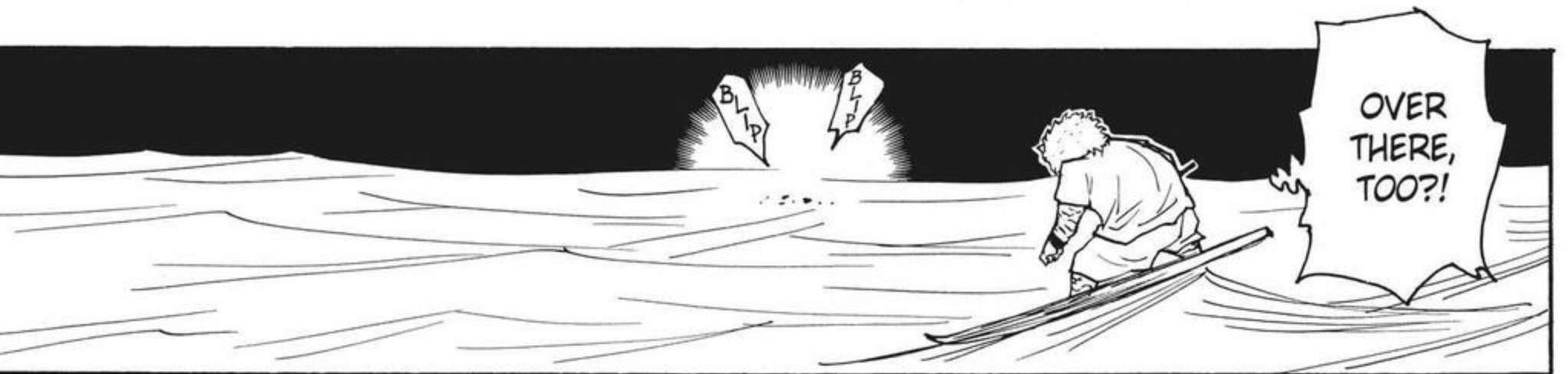
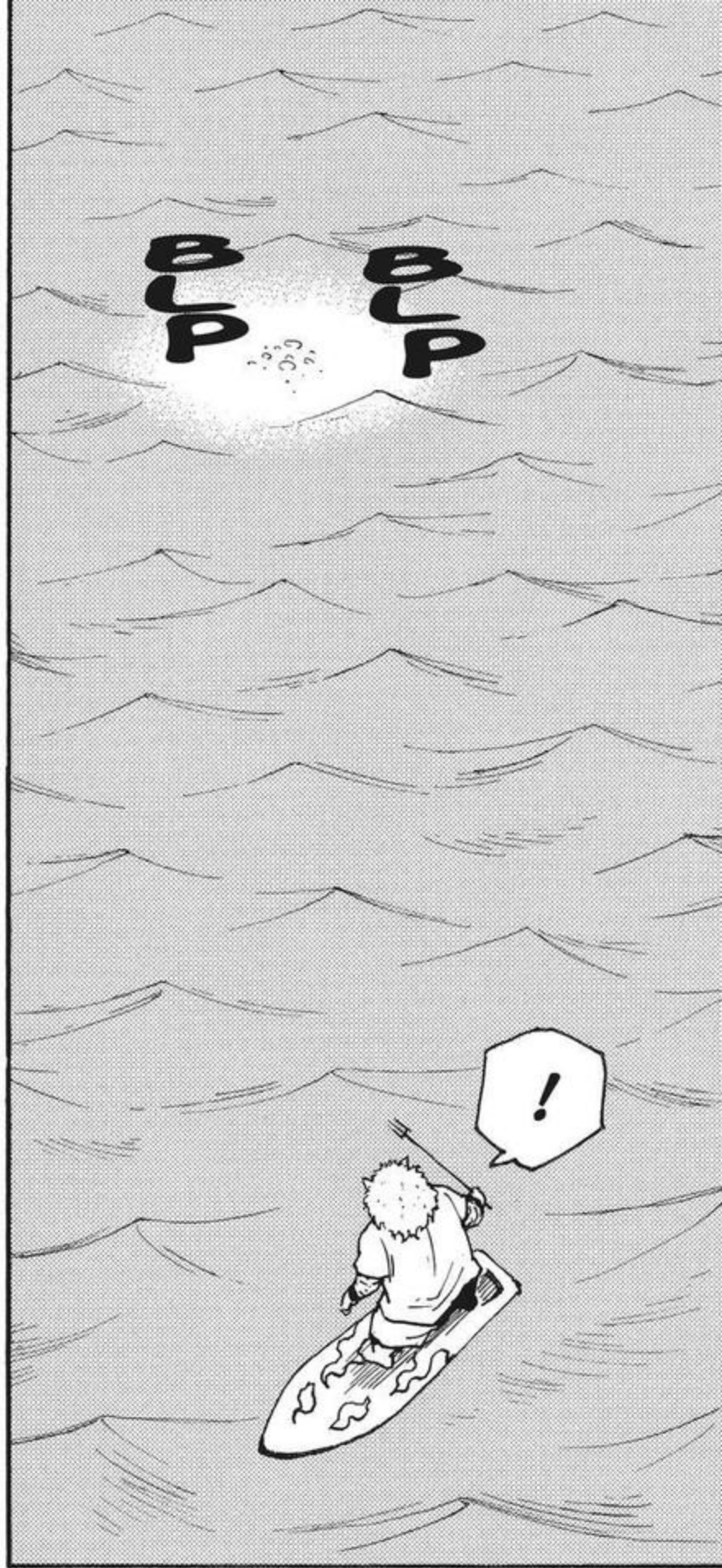
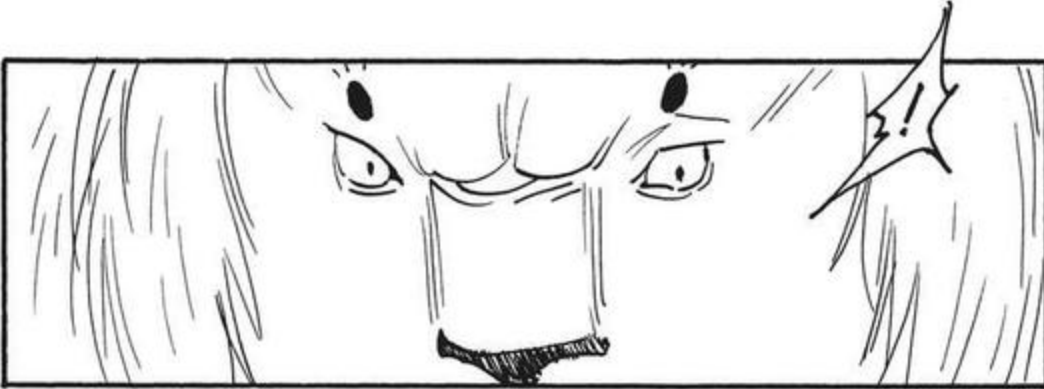


COULD HE STAY
UNDERWATER
AS LONG AS A
WHALE?!



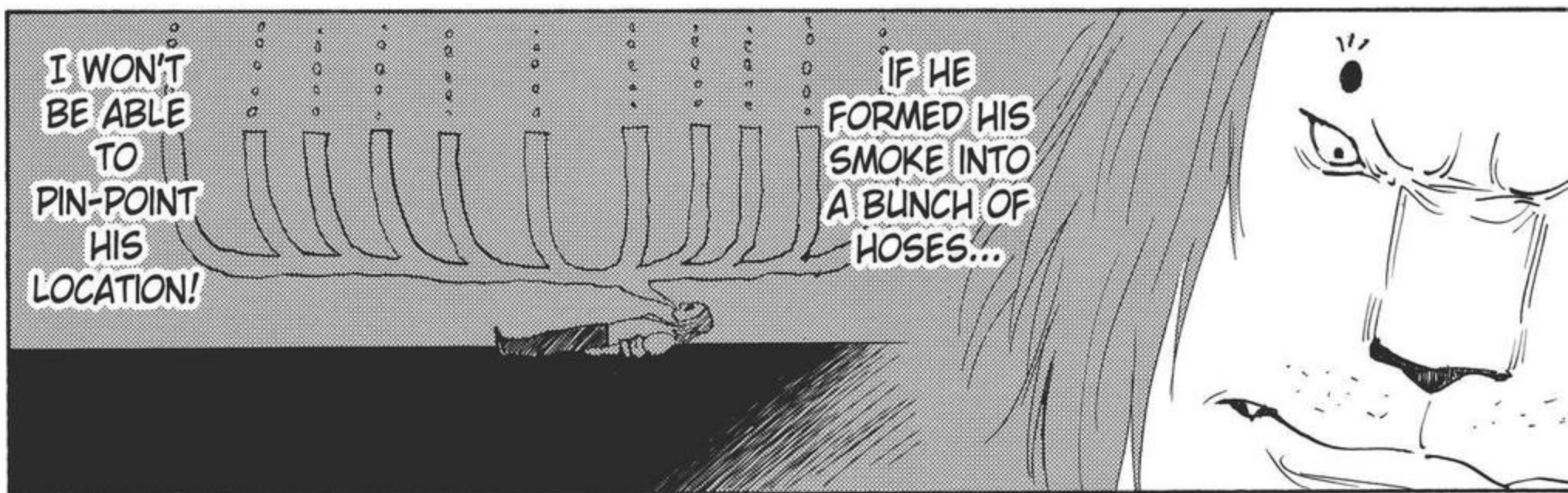
COULD
HE...?





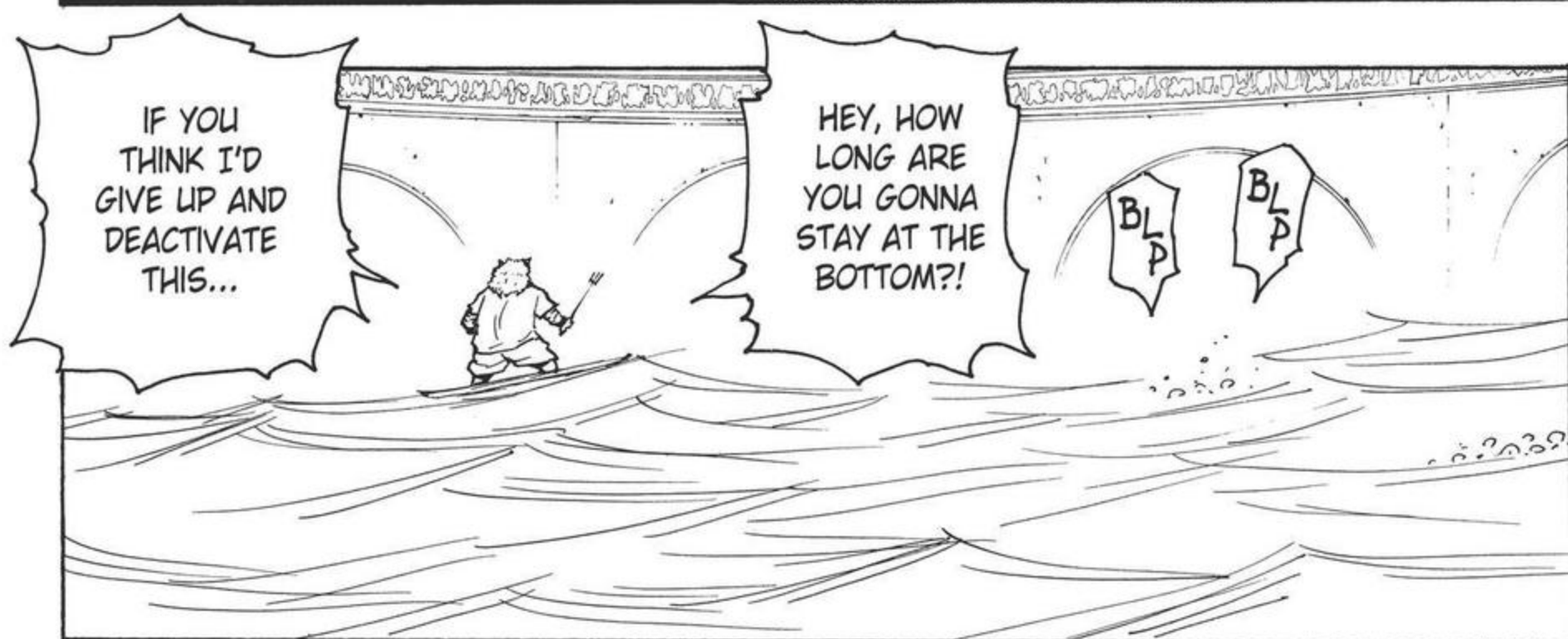


AIR
BUBBLES
EVERY-
WHERE
...!



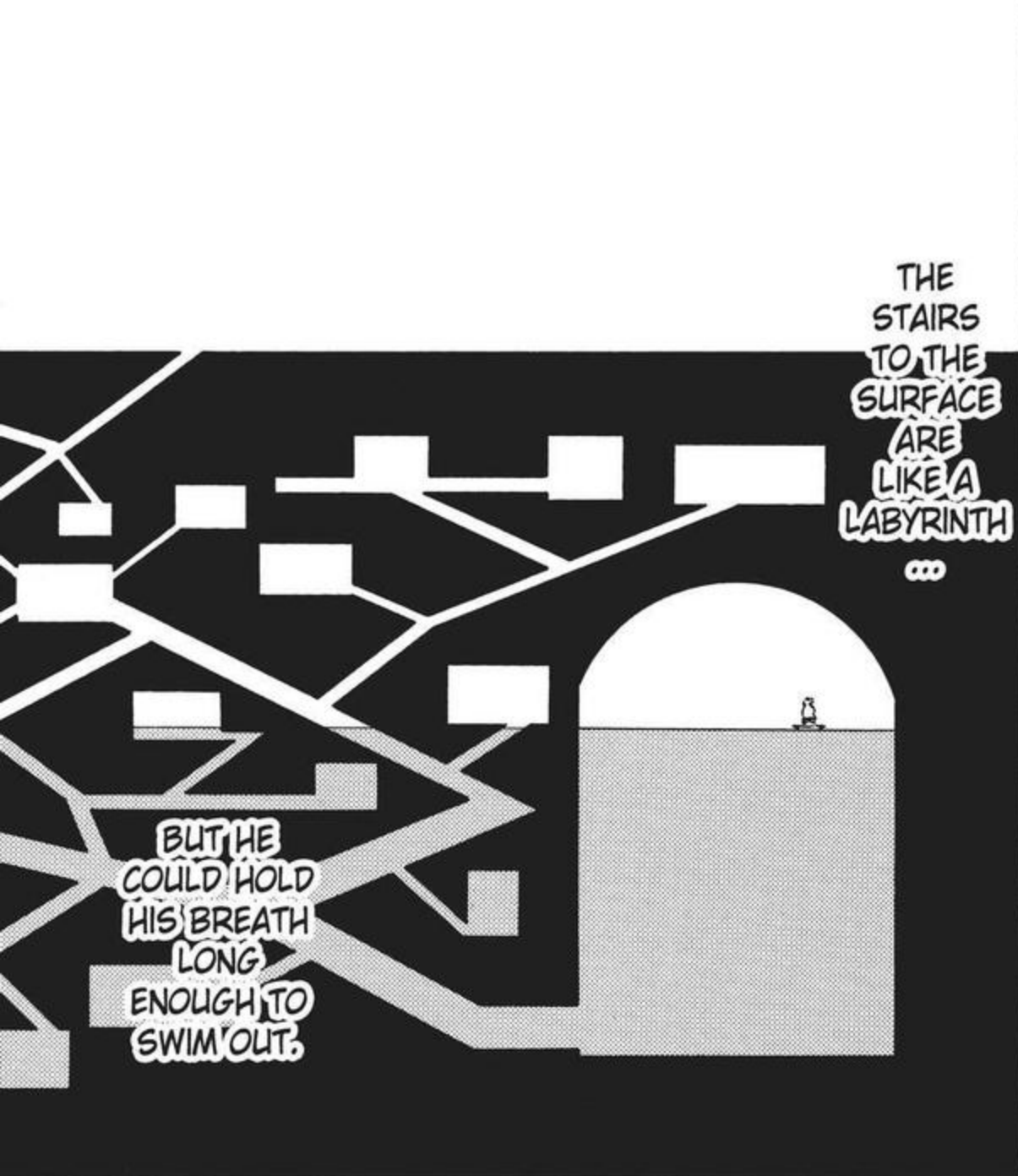
I WON'T
BE ABLE
TO
PIN-POINT
HIS
LOCATION!

IF HE
FORMED HIS
SMOKE INTO
A BUNCH OF
HOSES...



IF YOU
THINK I'D
GIVE UP AND
DEACTIVATE
THIS...

HEY, HOW
LONG ARE
YOU GONNA
STAY AT THE
BOTTOM?!



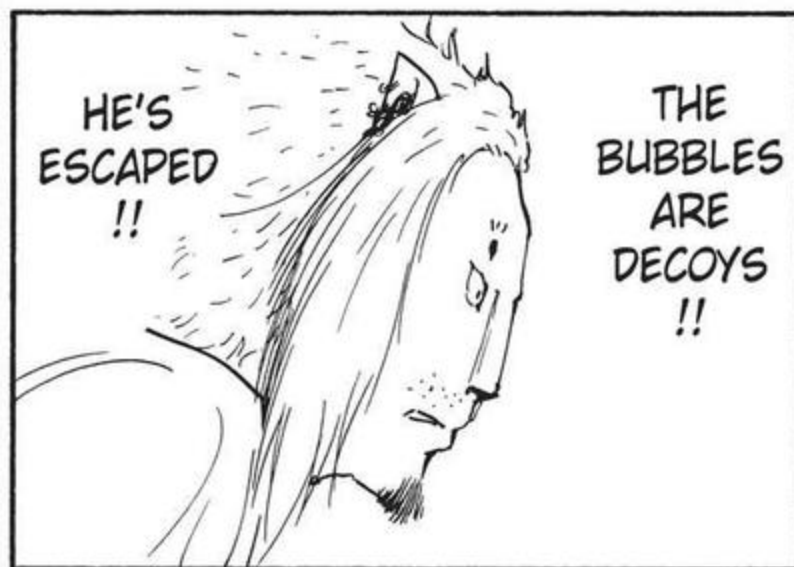
THE
STAIRS
TO THE
SURFACE
ARE
LIKE A
LABYRINTH
...

BUT HE
COULD HOLD
HIS BREATH
LONG
ENOUGH TO
SWIM OUT.



WAIT!

NO...



HE'S
ESCAPED
!!

THE
BUBBLES
ARE
DECOYS
!!



I TOLD
WELFIN NOT TO
INTERFERE
(SO I COULD
HOG THE
GLORY)...

SHE

I CAN'T
LET HIM
GET
AWAY!!



POISON
?!



CAN IT
BE...

WOBBLE



AND
MY
CHEST
HURTS
...

I
FEEL
DIZZY
...

PL OSH



WOBBLE

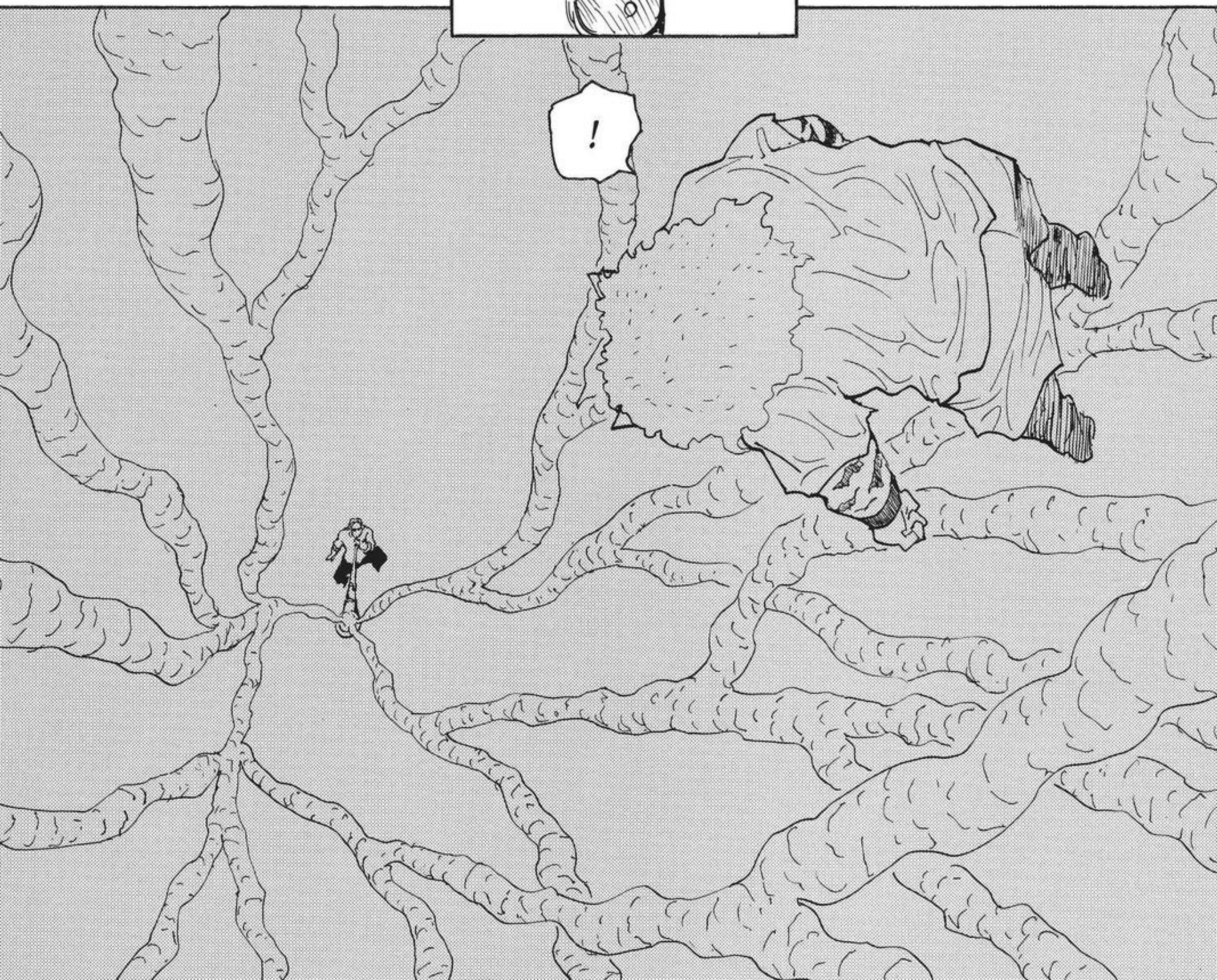


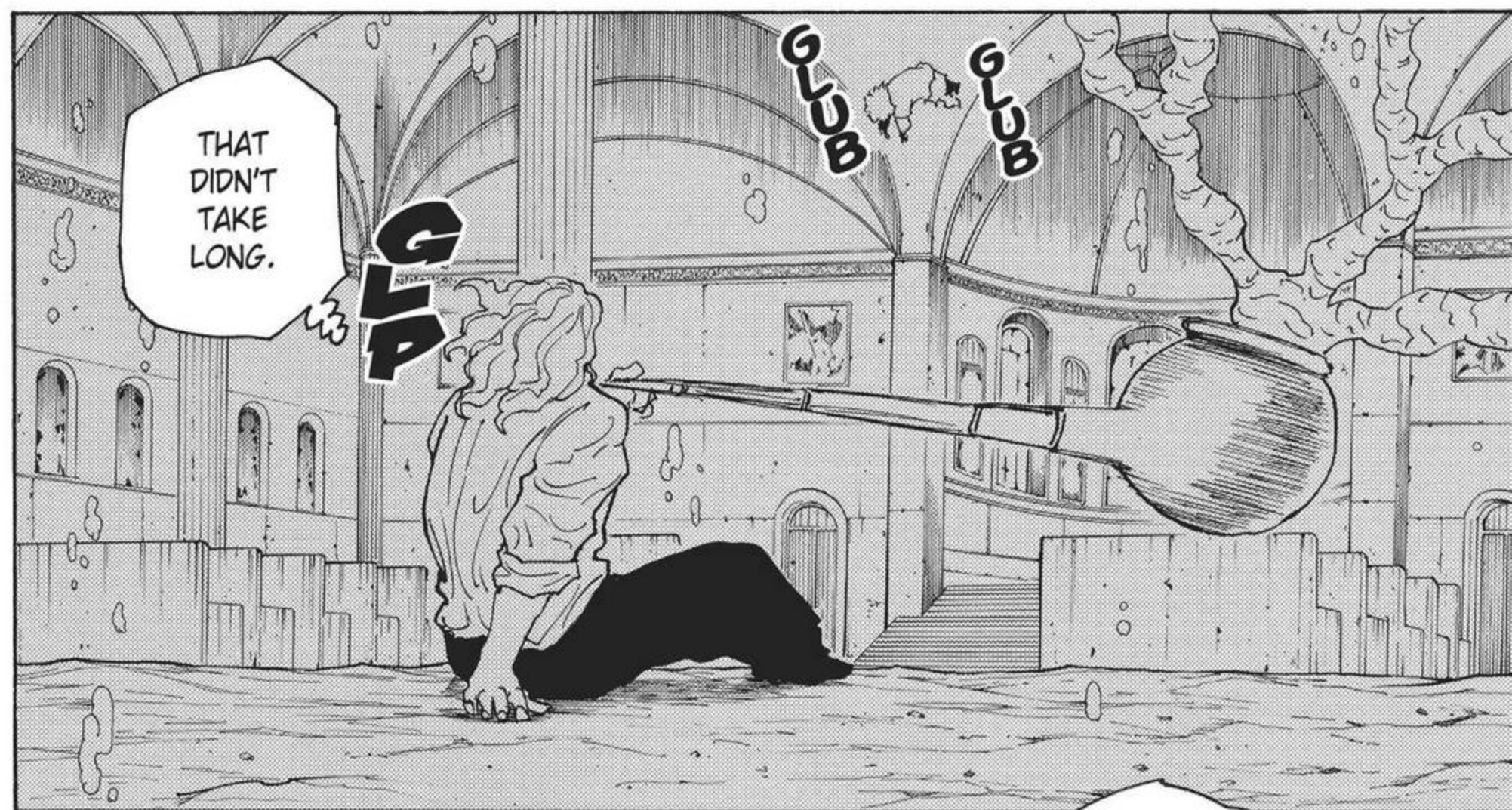
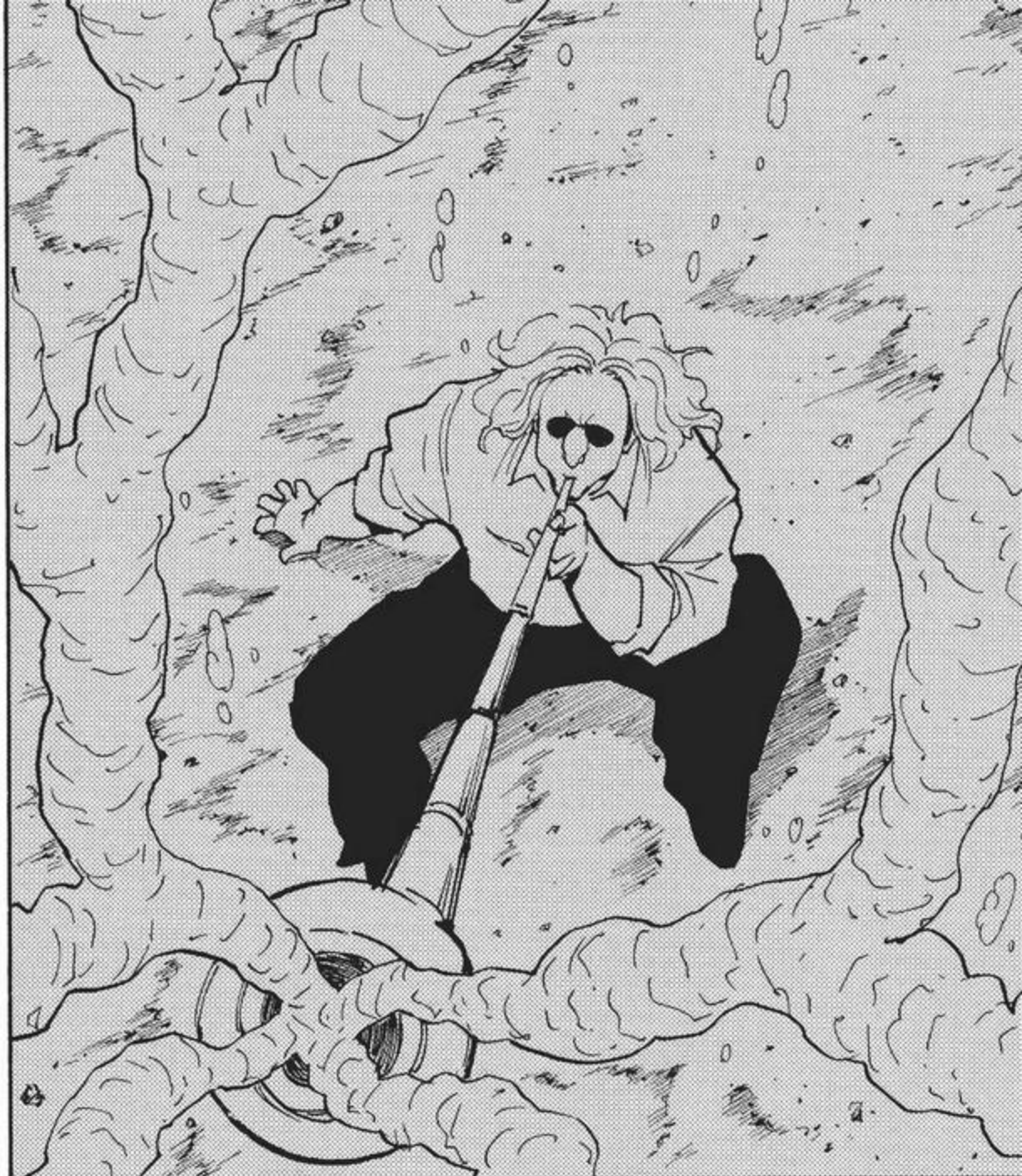


HERE...?



AM I
GOING TO
DIE...?





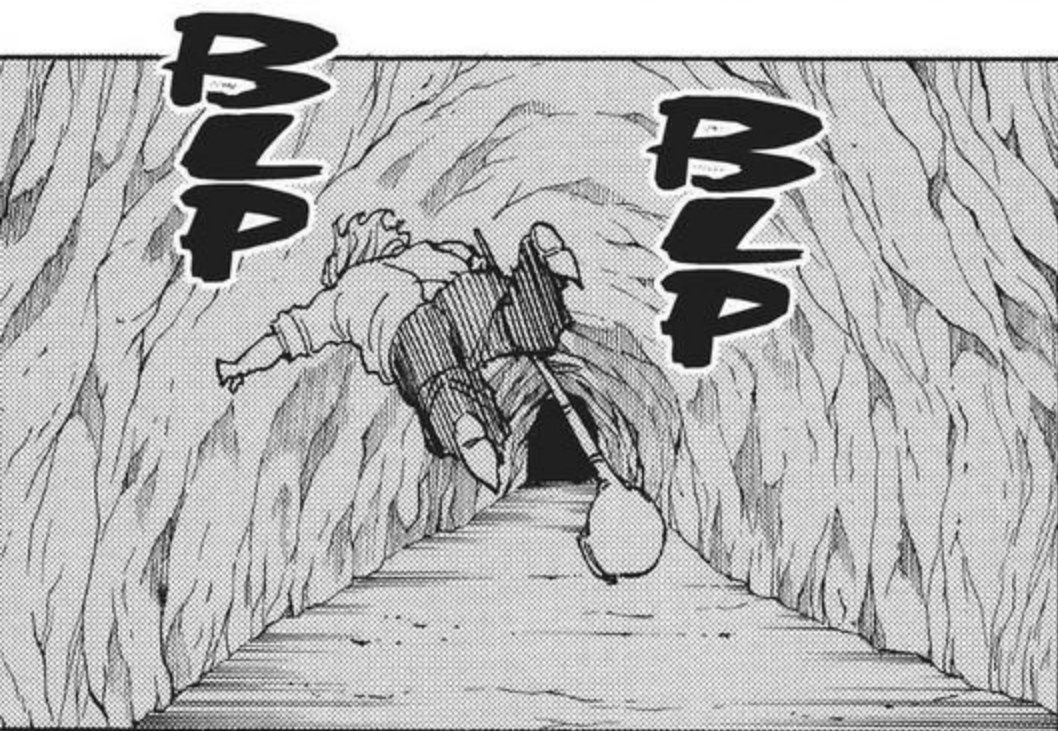
CARBON DIOXIDE
COMPRISES ONLY
ABOUT 0.03% OF THE
ATMOSPHERE, BUT AS
THE CONCENTRATION
INCREASES, IT QUICKLY
BECOMES TOXIC. AT 1
PERCENT, RESPIRATION
AND BLOOD CIRCULATION
ARE AFFECTED. AT 5
PERCENT, IT CAUSES
SYMPTOMS SUCH AS
HEADACHE, HEART
PALPITATIONS AND AN
INCREASE IN BLOOD
PRESSURE.
AT 20 PERCENT,
DEATH CAN OCCUR
WITHIN SECONDS.



CARBON DIOXIDE
(CO₂)
LIVING THINGS
BREATHE IN AIR,
TAKING IN OXYGEN,
AND BREATHE OUT
WASTE PRODUCTS,
INCLUDING CARBON
DIOXIDE.

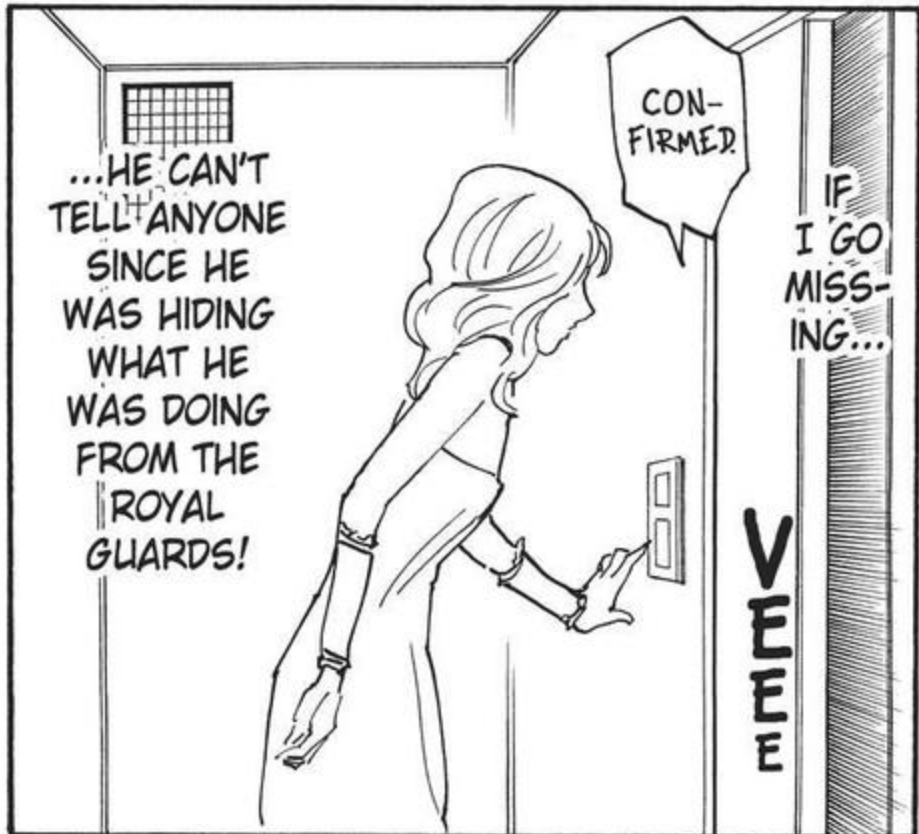
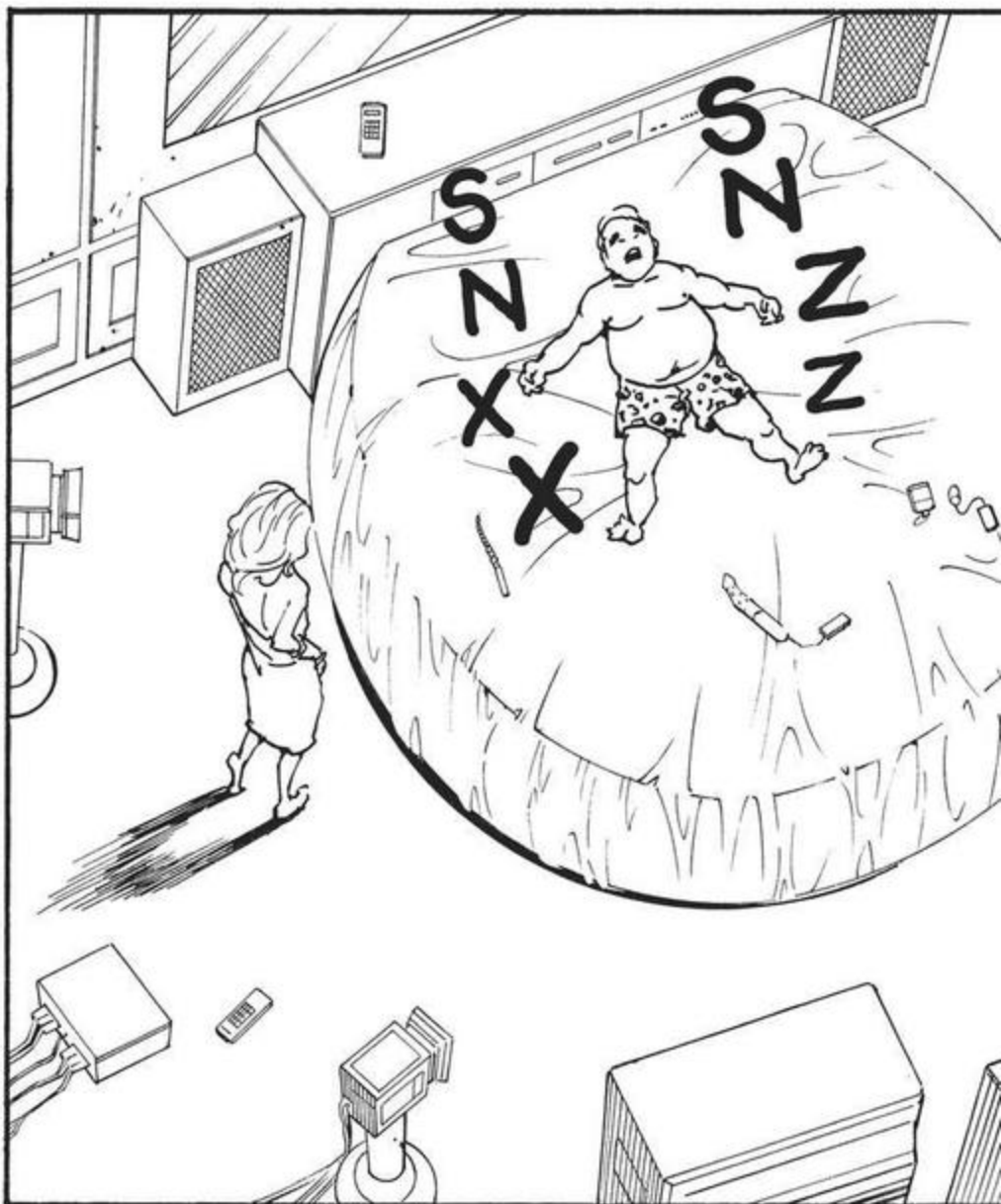
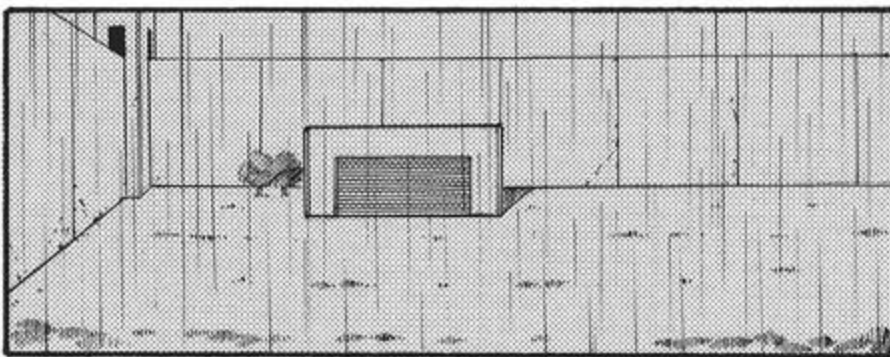
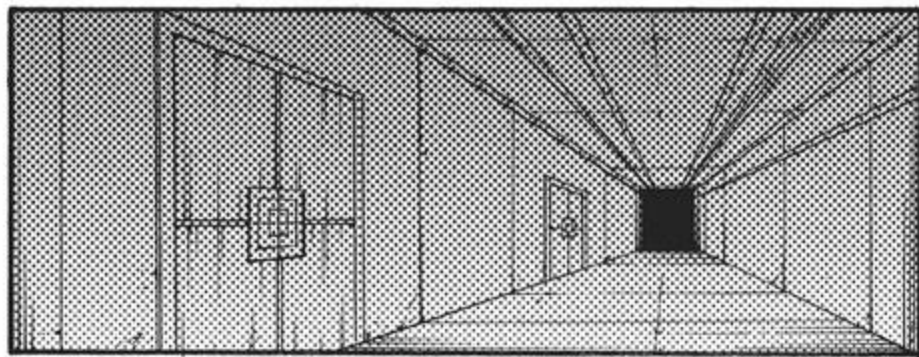
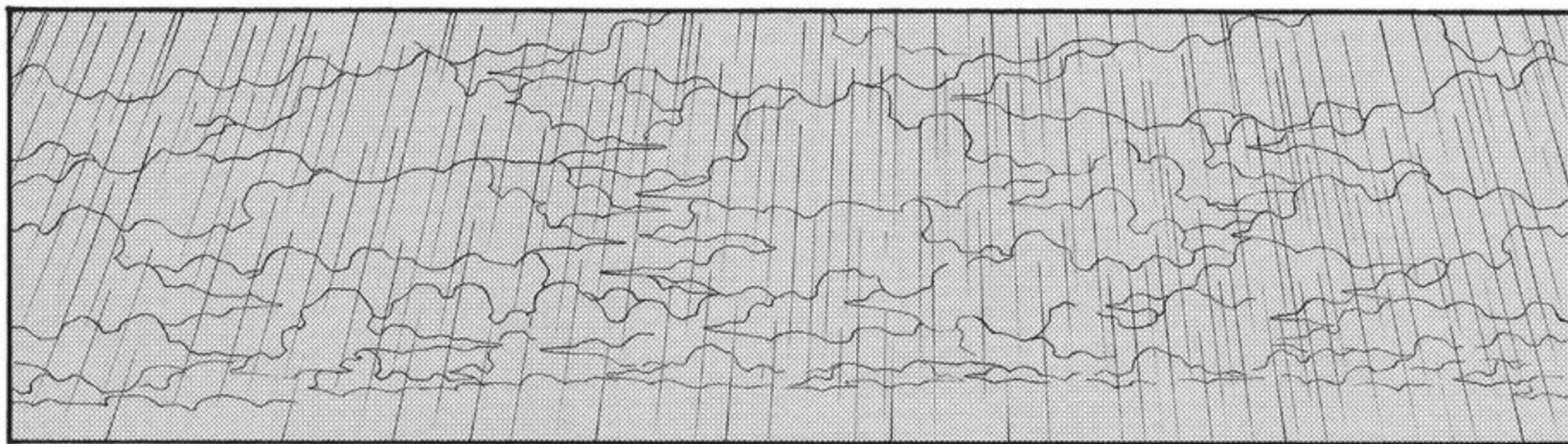
...CONVERTING
IT INTO CARBON
DIOXIDE AT AN
EXTRAORDINARY
RATE.

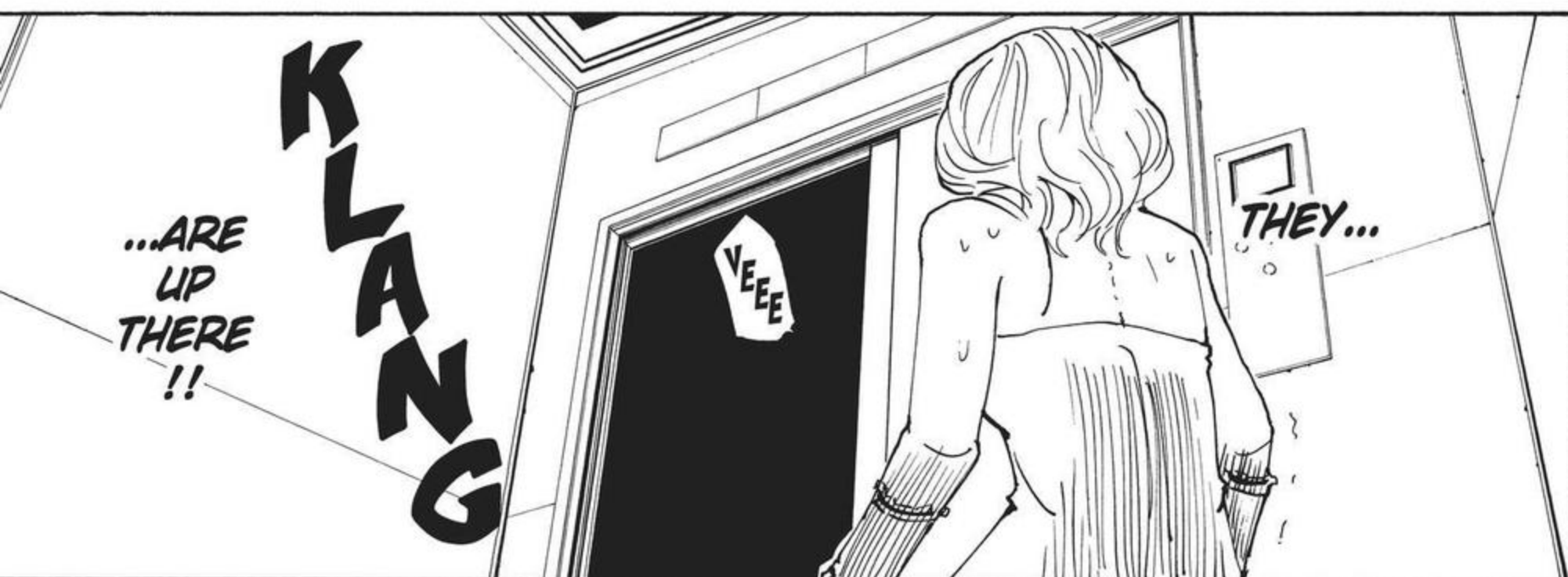
MOREL KEPT
CONSUMING
THE OXYGEN
IN THE SEALED
CHURCH...

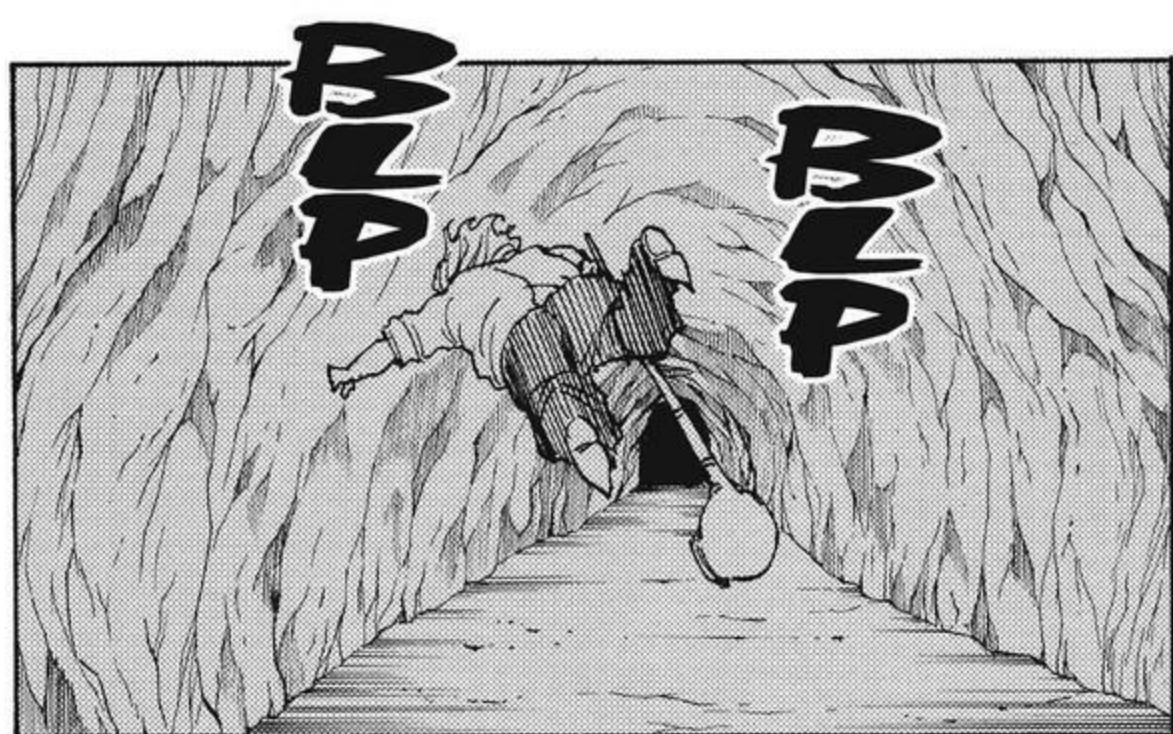


IF WHAT
HE SAID
WAS TRUE,
GRACHAN
SHOULD GET
HIS ABILITY
BACK NOW.

MY
ATTACKS
BEGAN
EVEN
BEFORE
YOURS.







Chapter 255: 5: Part 1 to 2: Part 1



Chapter 255: 5: Part 1 to 2: Part 1







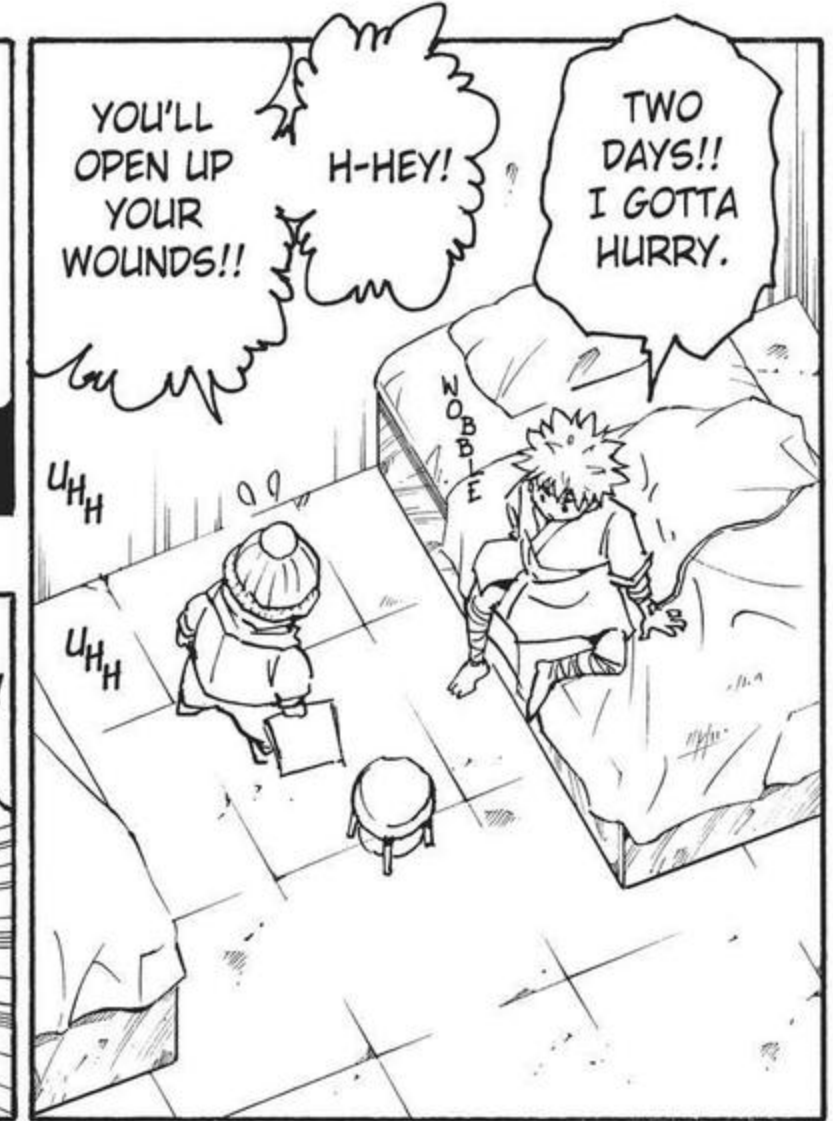
THIS IS A
BACK ALLEY
HOSPITAL
FOR
HUMANS.

IT'S
FREQUENTED
BY ANTI-
GOVERNMENT
ACTIVISTS AND
THE MAFIA.

YOU SLEPT
FOR TWO
WHOLE
DAYS,
MAN.



I GOTTA
CONTINUE
WITH THE
PLAN!!



YOU'LL
OPEN UP
YOUR
WOUNDS!!

H-HEY!

TWO
DAYS!!
I GOTTA
HURRY.



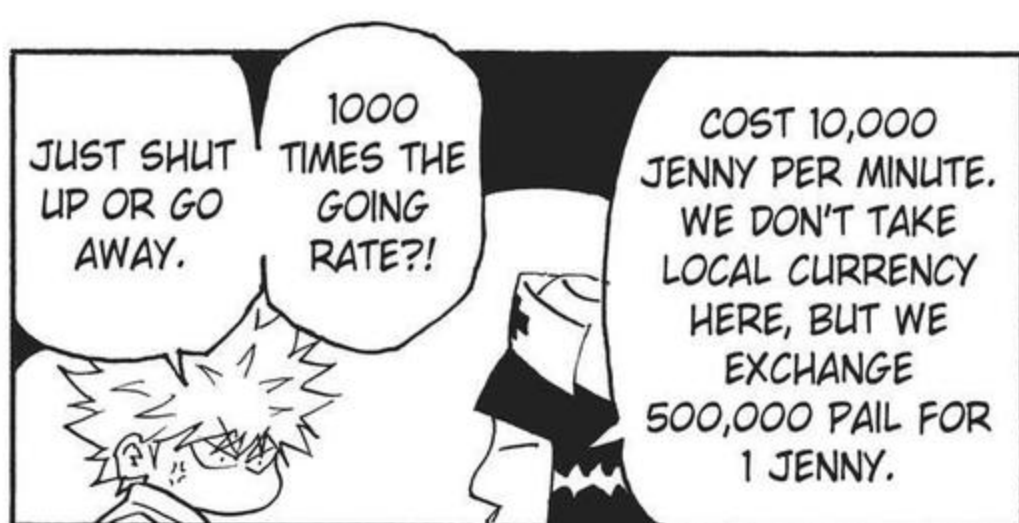
YOU
WERE
HOVERING
AT DEATH'S
DOOR JUST
A SECOND
AGO...

WHA--!!



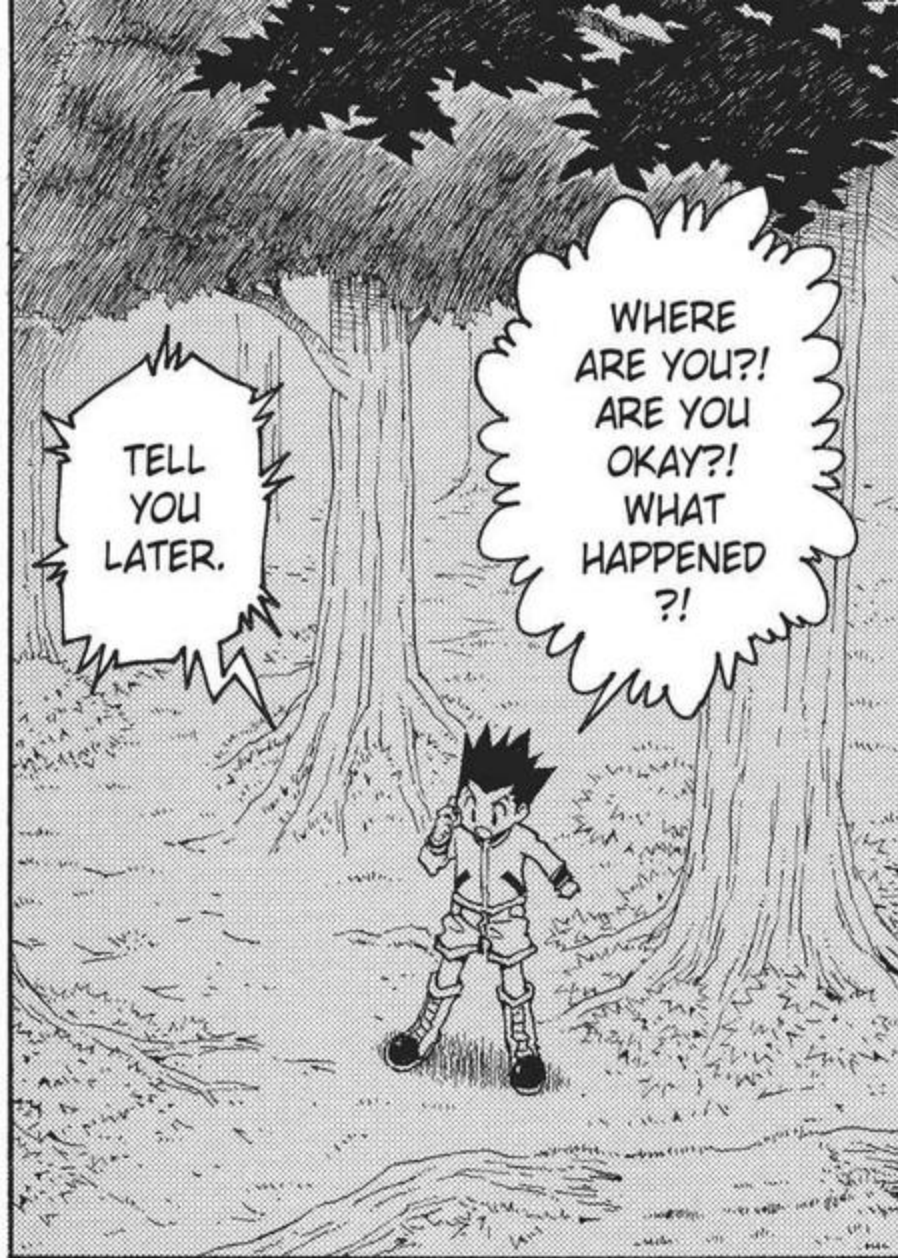
OH, YOU
AWAKE!

AT LEAST
REST
FOR...



WELL, I'M
GLAD YOU'RE
OKAY NOW!

I GOT HIT
PRETTY BAD
AND HAD TO
GO TO THE
HOSPITAL.



TELL
YOU
LATER.

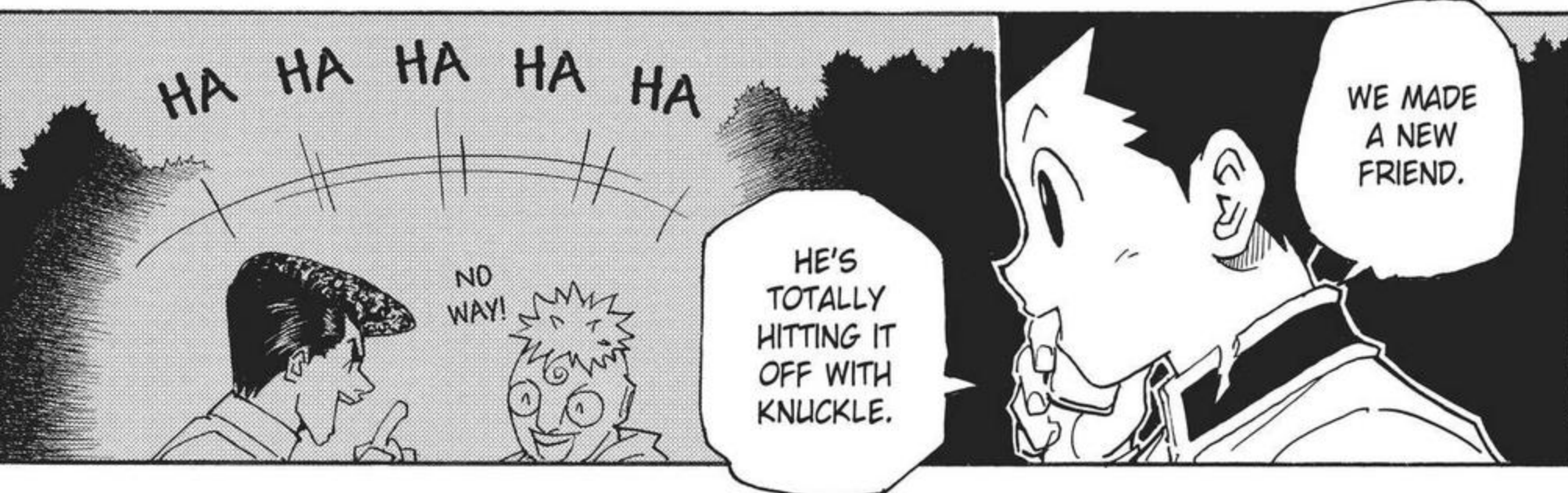
WHERE
ARE YOU?!
ARE YOU
OKAY?!
WHAT
HAPPENED
?!



WHAT'S
UP ON
YOUR
END?

YOU
PAY!

I'LL BE
BACK
SOON.



HA HA HA HA HA

NO
WAY!

HE'S
TOTALLY
HITTING IT
OFF WITH
KNUCKLE.



WE MADE
A NEW
FRIEND.



ONCE THAT'S
DONE, I CAN
JOIN YOU
WITHIN THE
DAY.

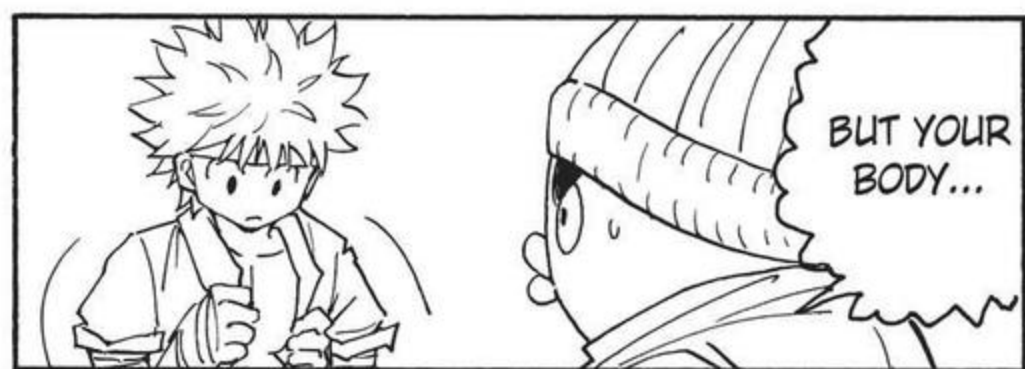
I NEED YOU
TO WIRE
MONEY TO AN
ACCOUNT.



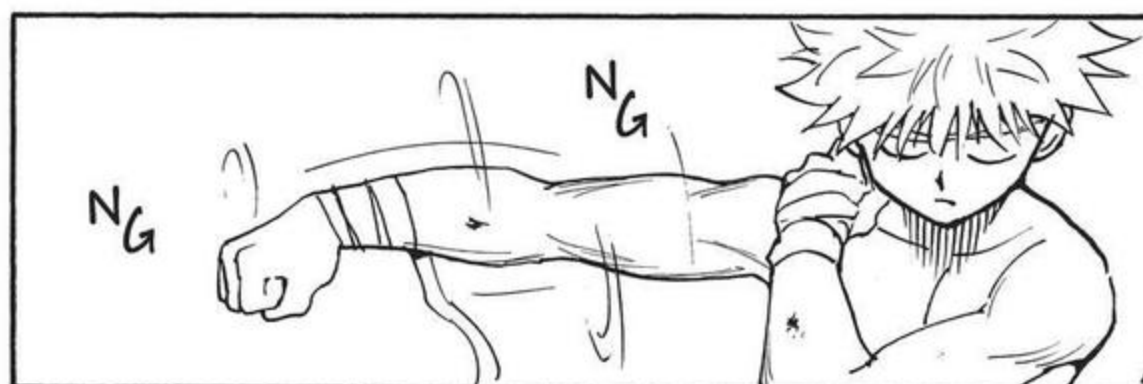
I WANT TO
DISCUSS IT
WITH YOU AS
SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

WE HAVE A
PLAN THAT
MIGHT EVEN
TAKE DOWN
THE KING.

UH
HUH.



BUT YOUR
BODY...







...IT'S
OKAY FOR
ME TO
GO?

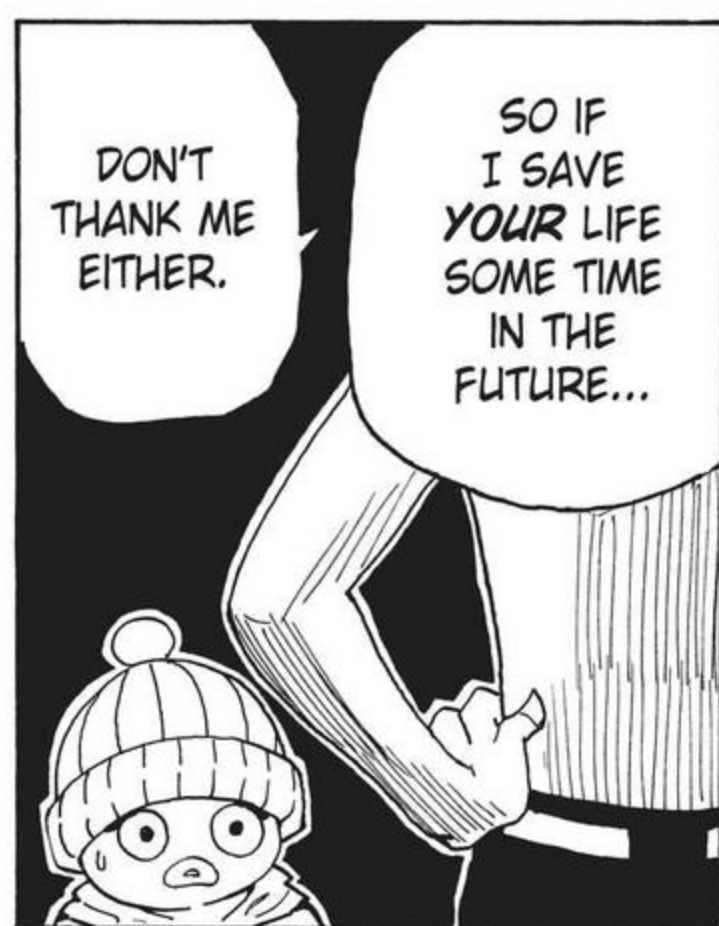
ARE YOU
SURE...



I-
I'LL
GO!!

ER...

IT'S ONLY A
MATTER OF
YOU COMING
OR NOT!!



DON'T
THANK ME
EITHER.

SO IF
I SAVE
YOUR LIFE
SOME TIME
IN THE
FUTURE...

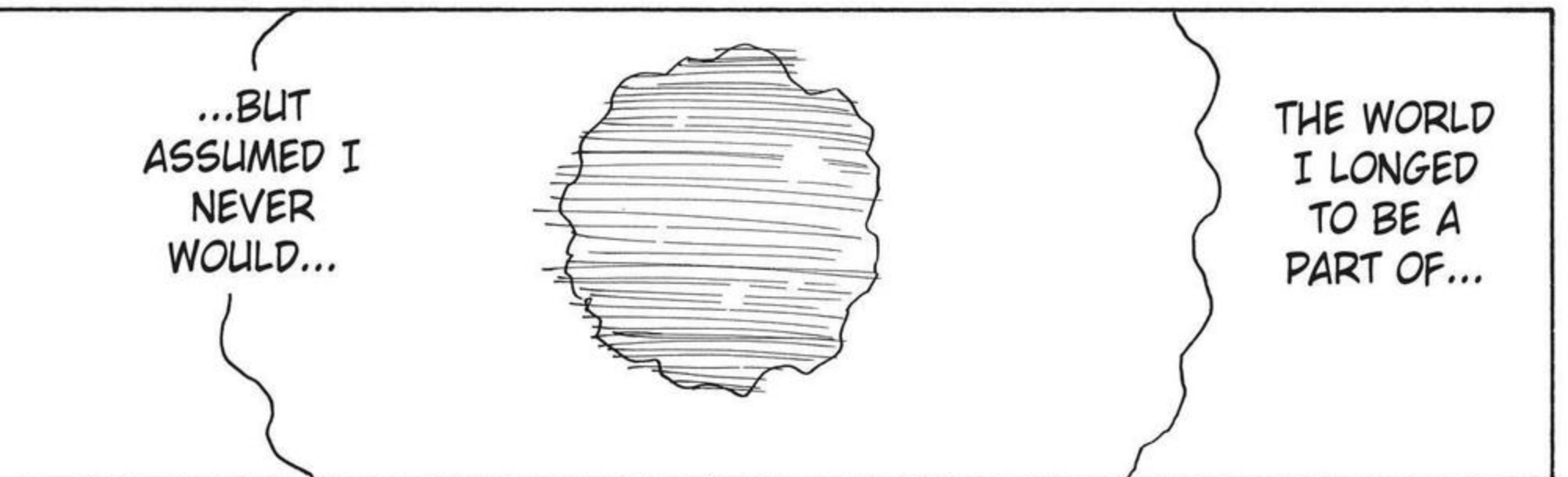
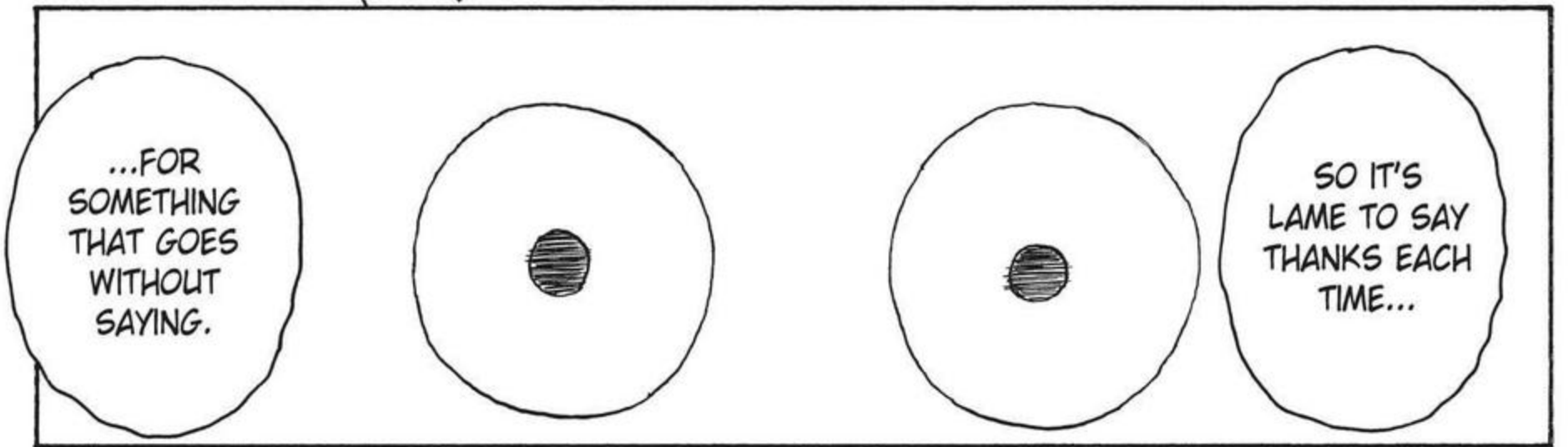


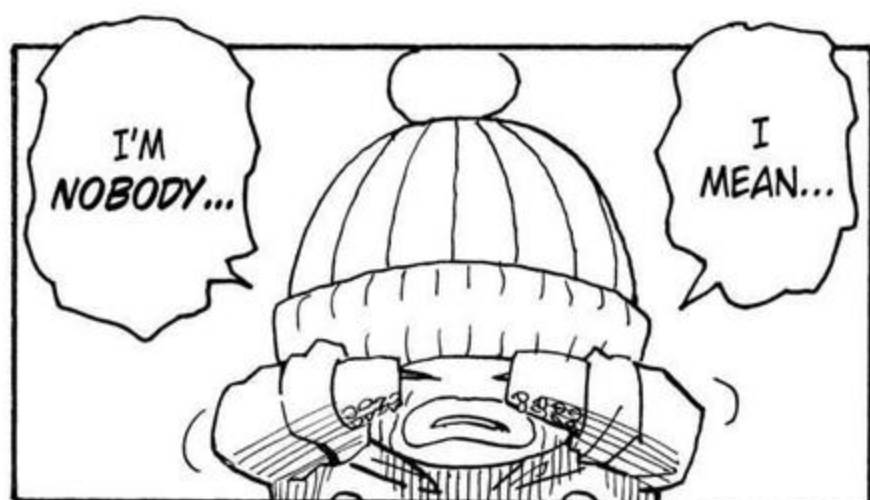
I WON'T
THANK YOU
FOR IT.

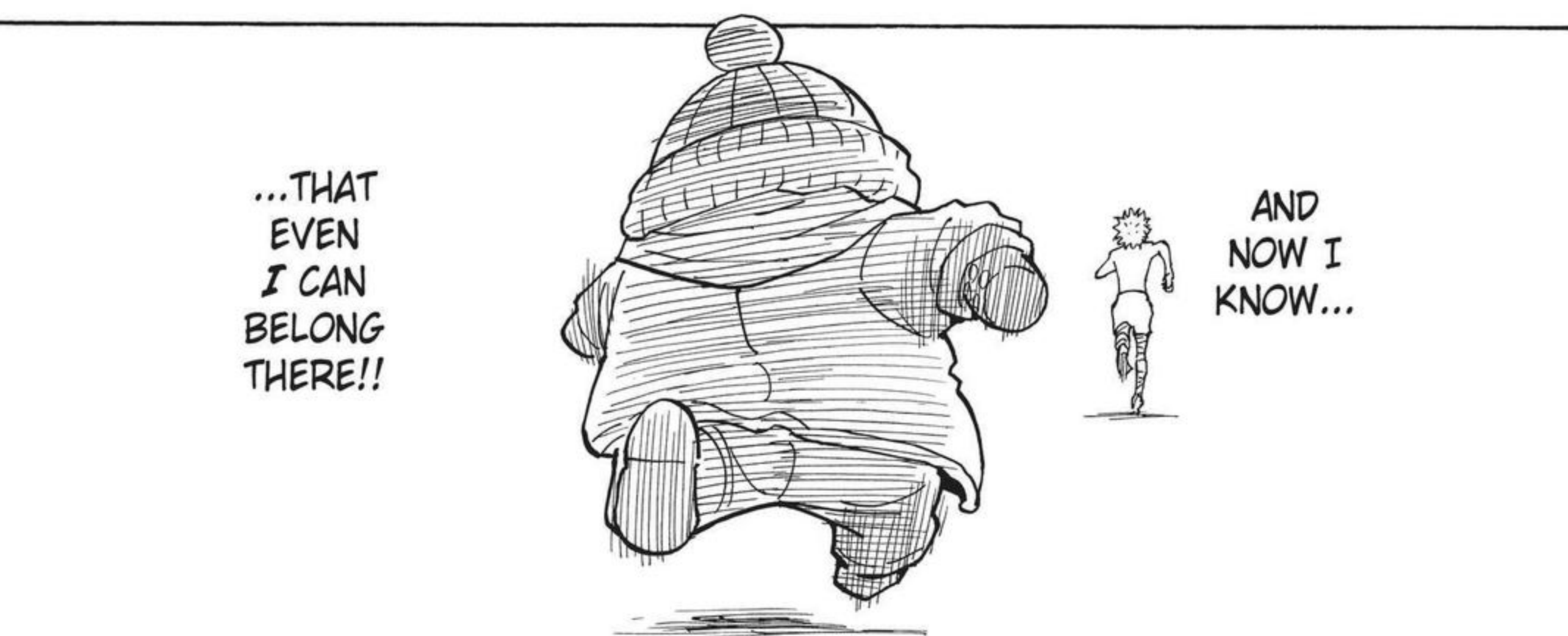
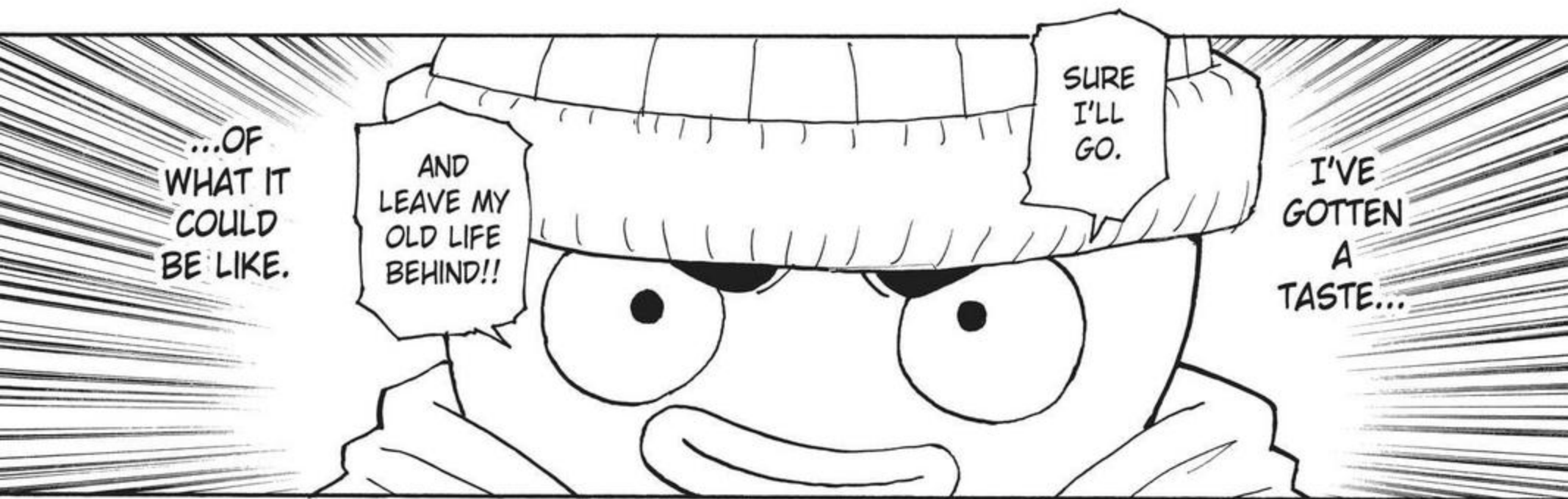
THE NEXT
TIME STUFF
LIKE THIS
HAPPENS...

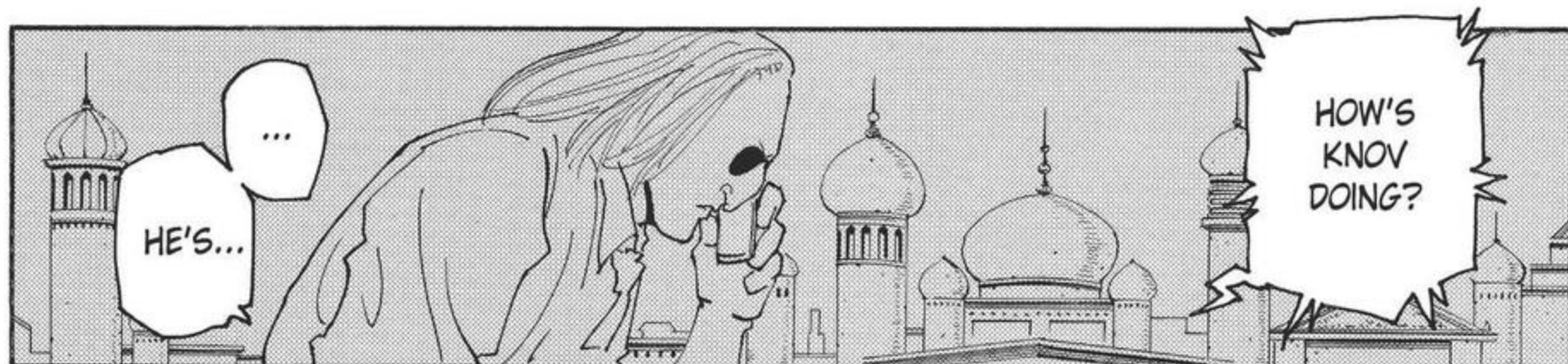


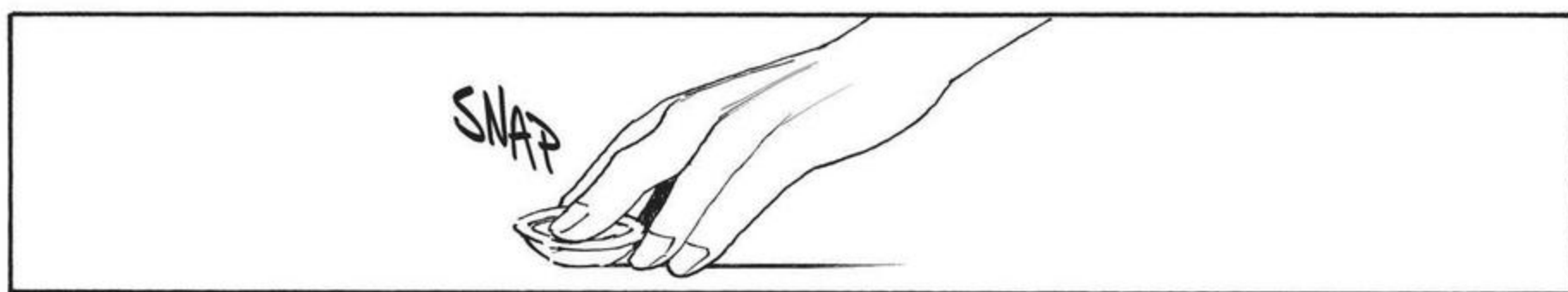
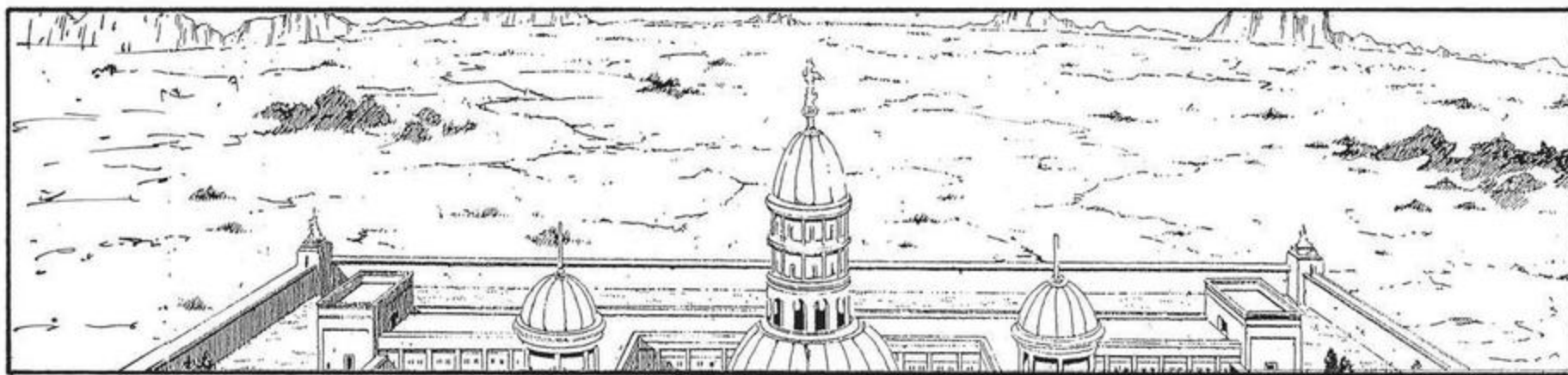
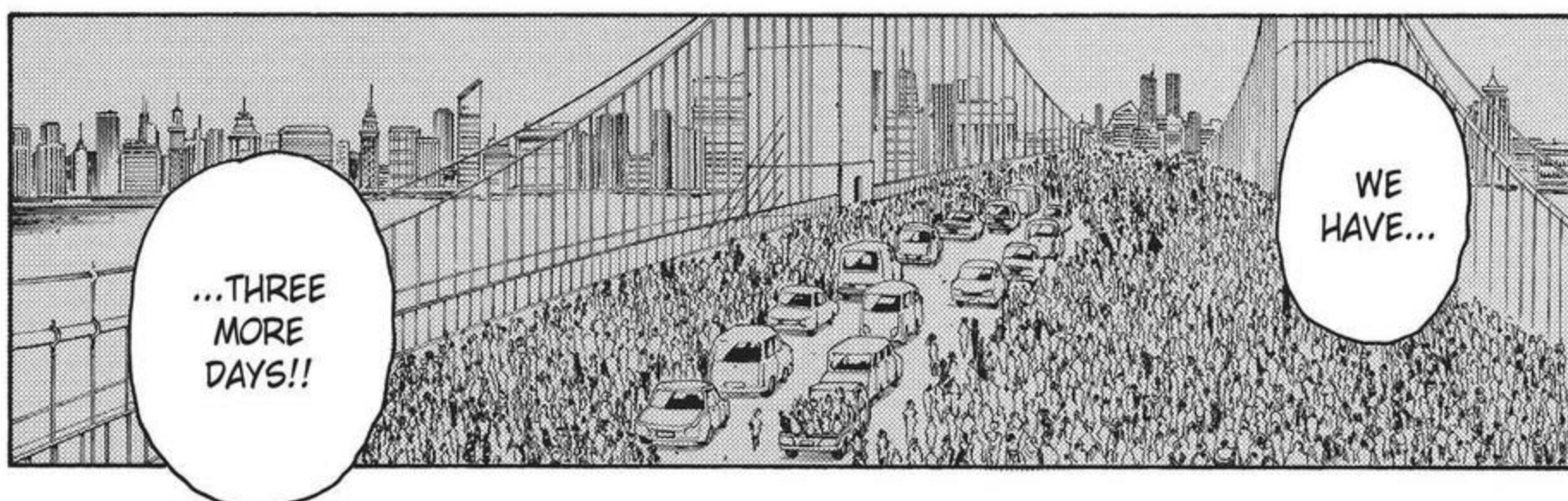
ONE
THING.

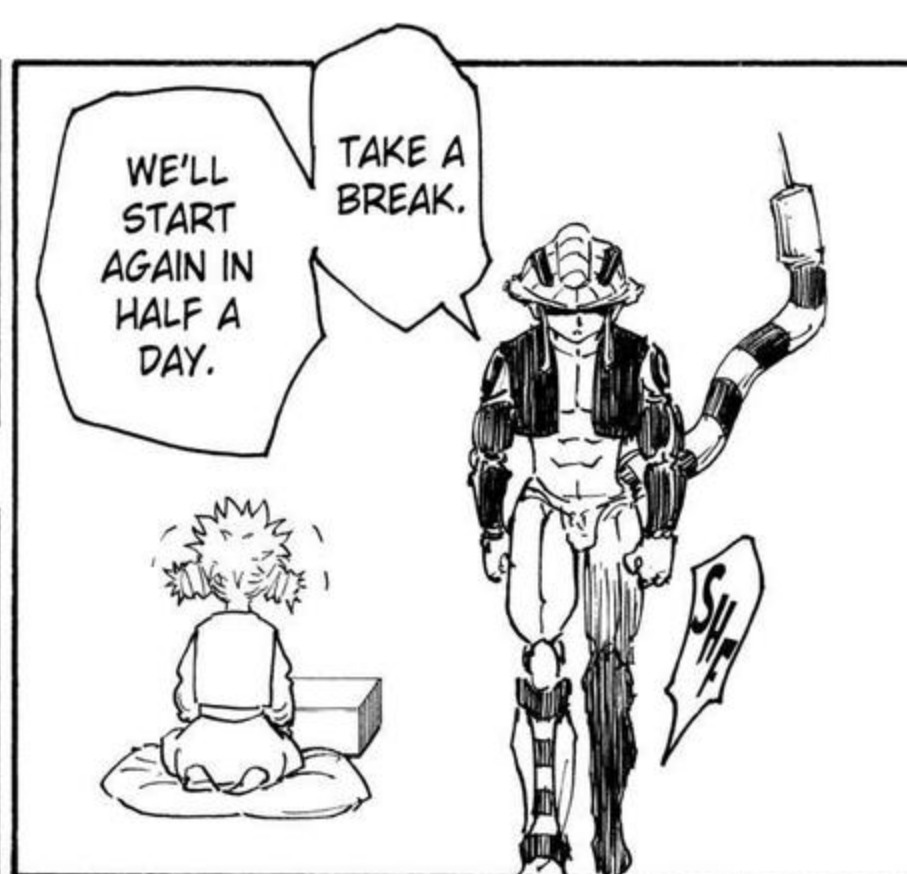
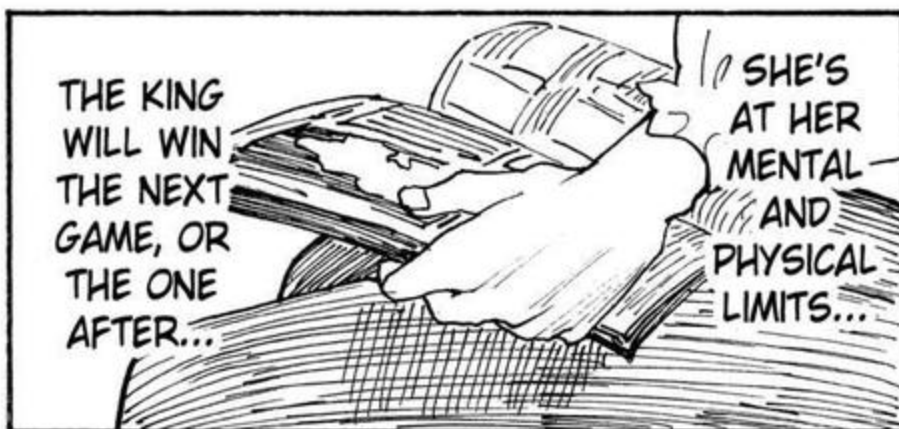
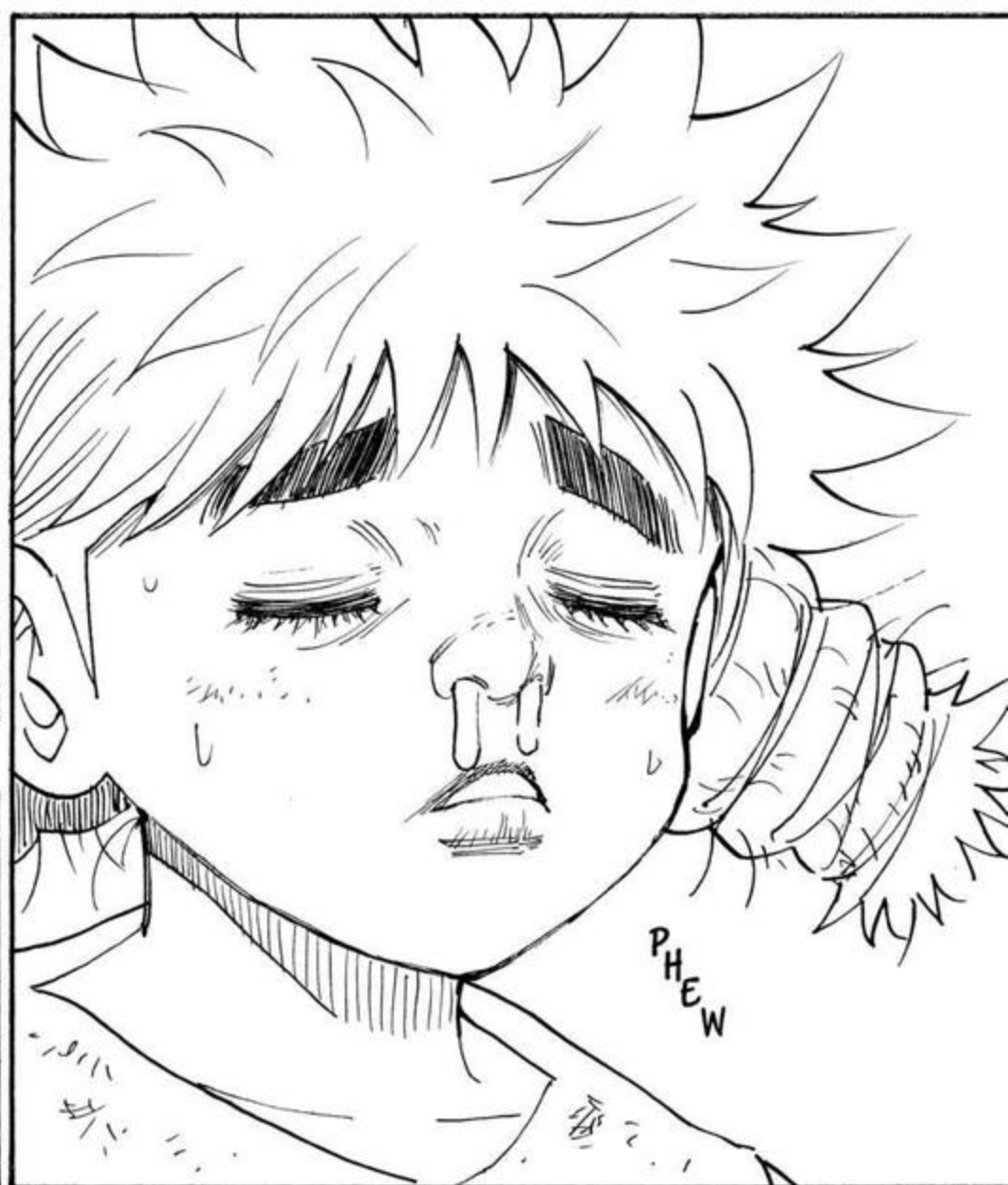












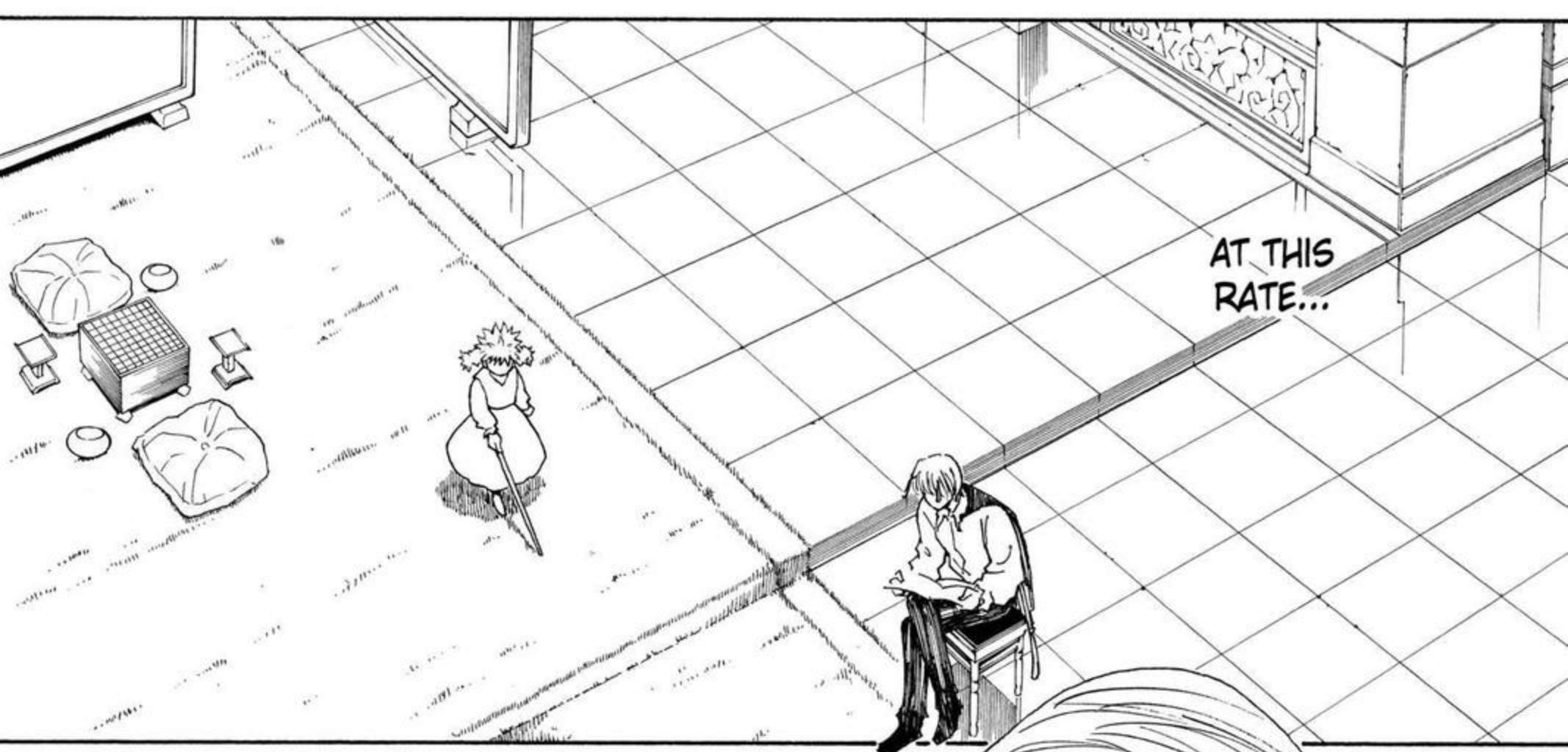


...IS A
LIABILITY!

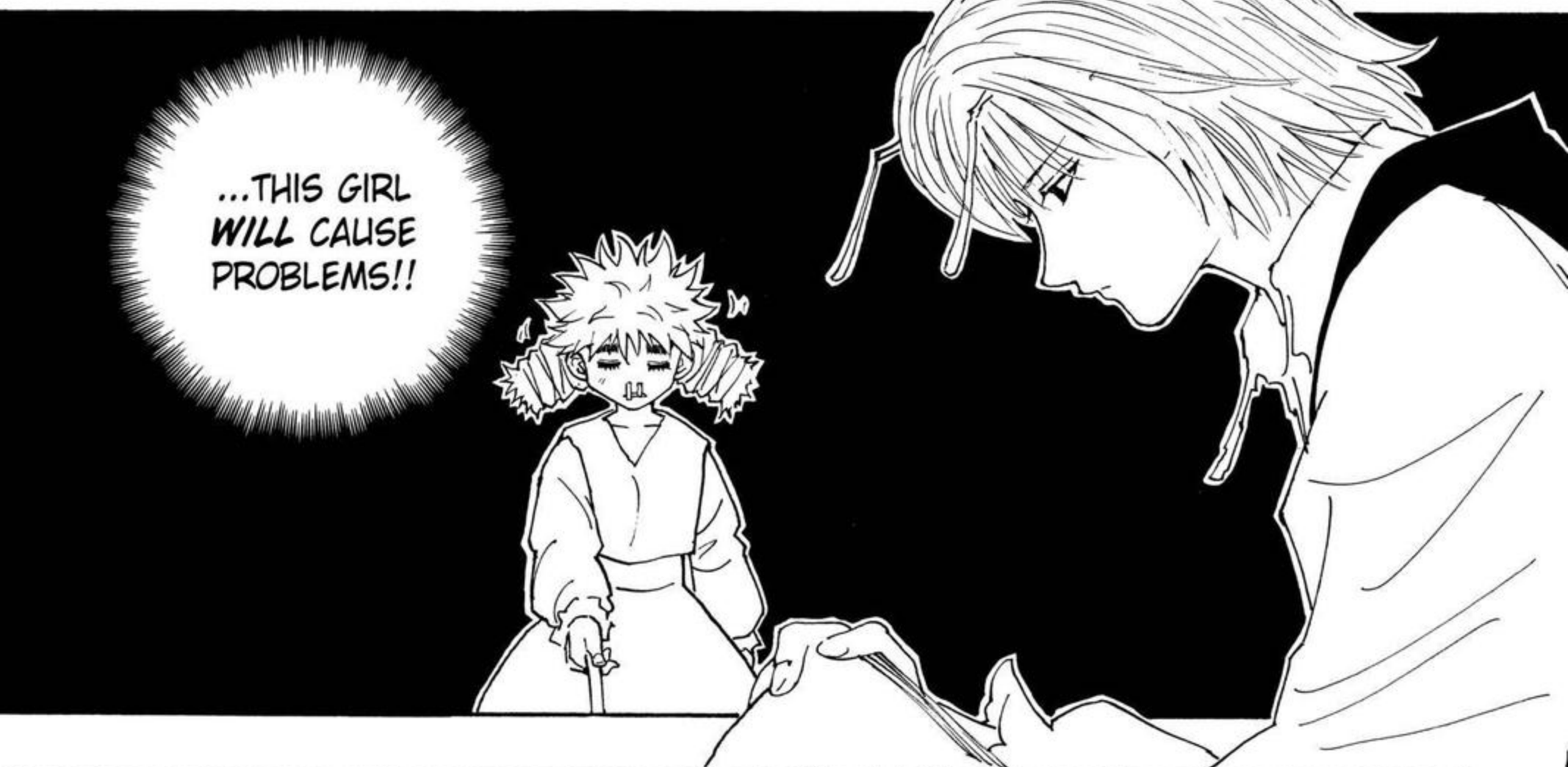
THIS
GIRL...







AT THIS
RATE...



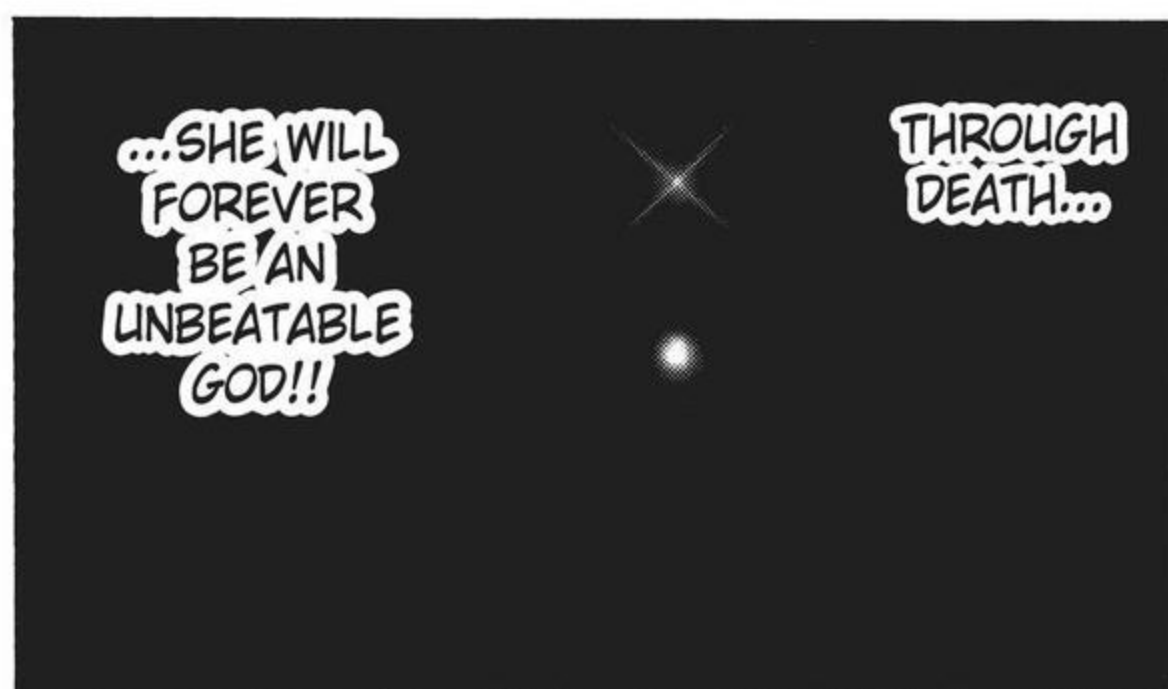
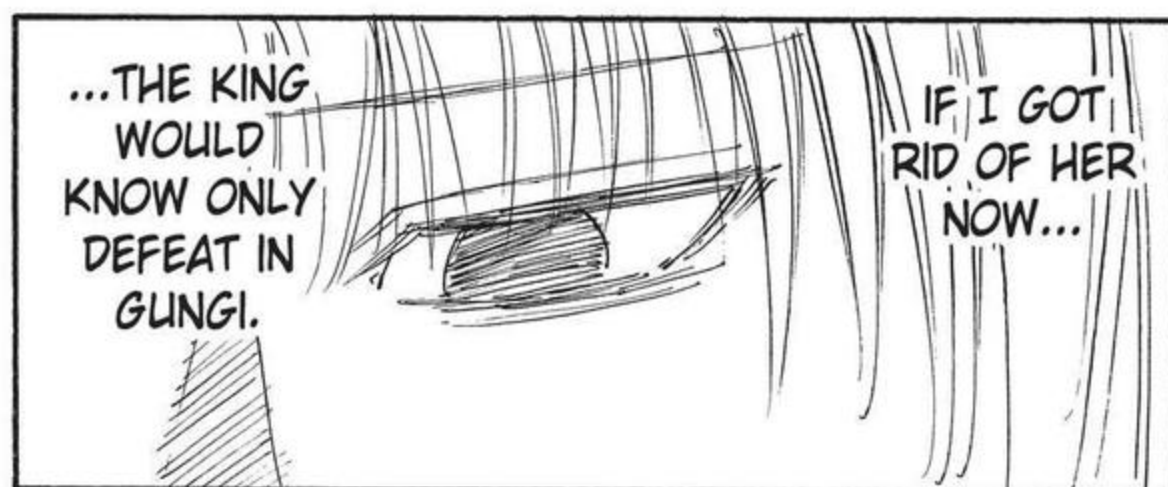
...THIS GIRL
WILL CAUSE
PROBLEMS!!



SWP



FFT





...LEAVE A
HIDEOUS,
IRREPARABLE
SCAR ON
THE KING.



I ALMOST
LET A
THOUGHT-
LESS
IMPULSE
...

...WAS
SUCH A
FOOL!



I...

...IS
WITH
MY
OWN
LIFE.



THE ONLY
WAY I
CAN MAKE
UP FOR
THIS...



...THAT
THE KING
REIGNS
OVER THE
WORLD!

AFTER
I SEE
THROUGH
...

W A A A A A A H



SEVEN
PEOPLE WILL
STORM THE
PALACE FROM
KNOV'S NEN
MANSION!!

ME, SHOOT,
GON, KILLUA,
MELEORON,
IKALGO AND
MOREL.

SO WHAT
WILL THEY
INSTINCTIVELY
DO IN THEIR
SURPRISE?

WE'LL
SUDDENLY
SHOW UP IN
THE MIDDLE OF
THEIR CAMP.

WE'LL USE THAT
TIME TO LURE
AWAY THE ROYAL
GUARDS FROM
THE KING.

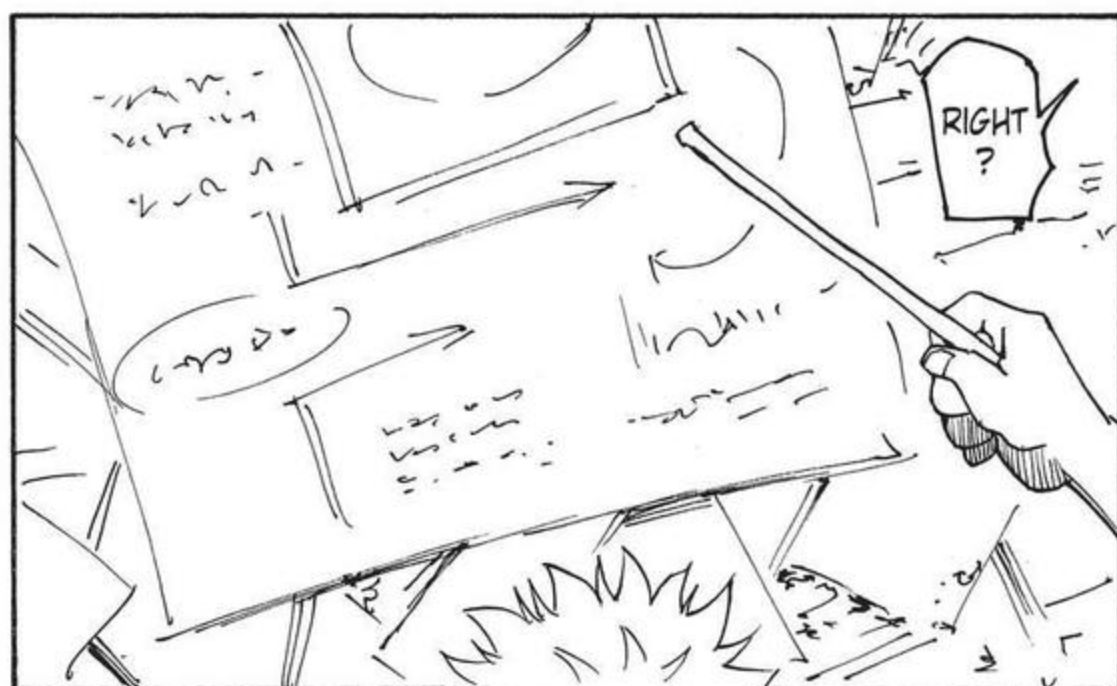
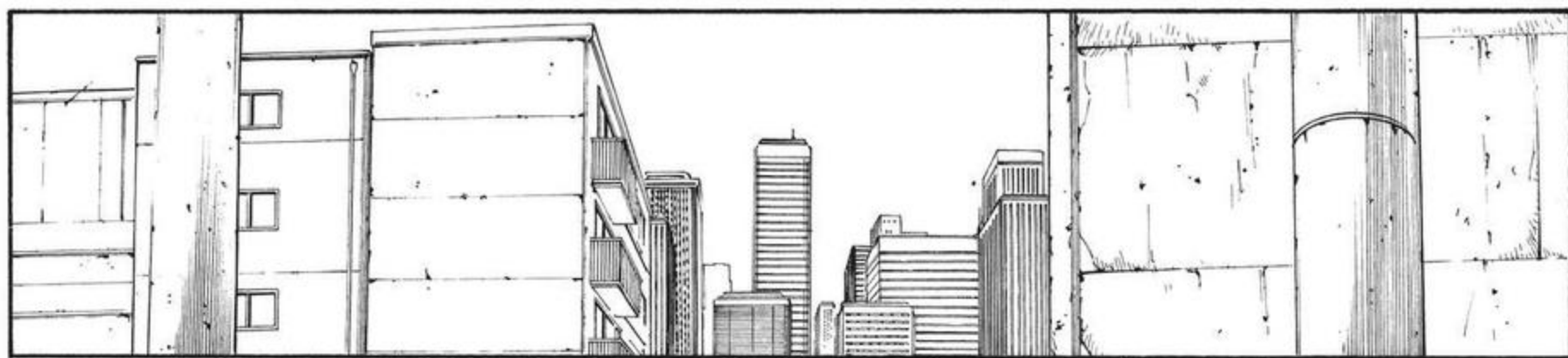
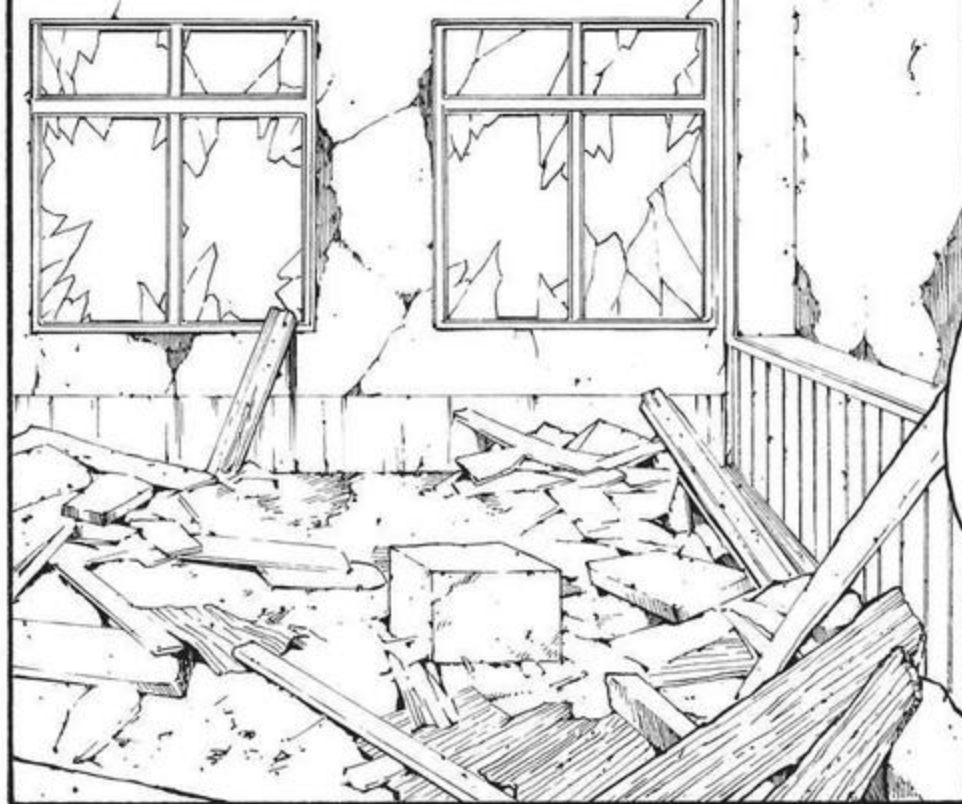
THE CHAIRMAN
WILL BE COMING
FROM OUTSIDE
PITOU'S EN, SO
HE'LL BE A FEW
SECONDS LATER.

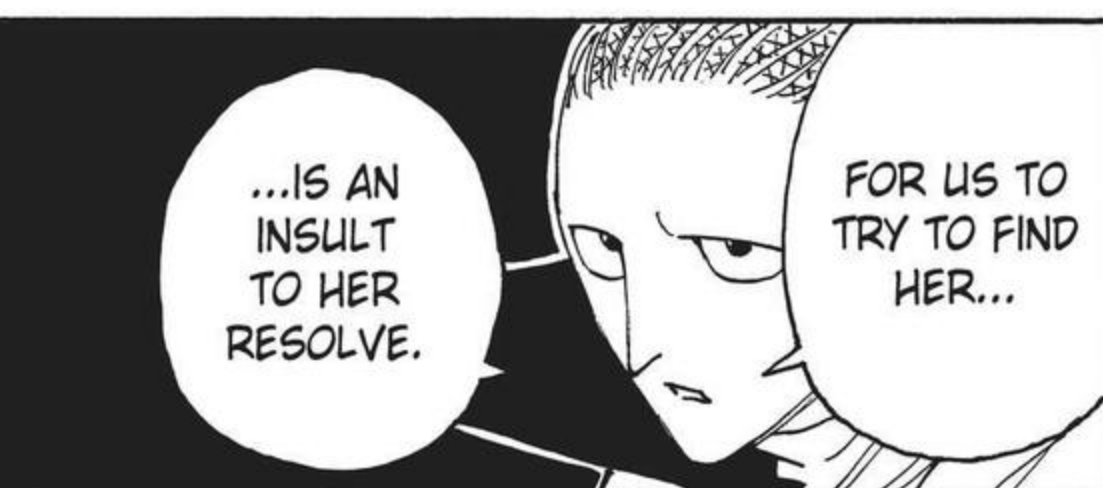
PROTECT THE
KING WITH
THEIR OWN
LIVES!!

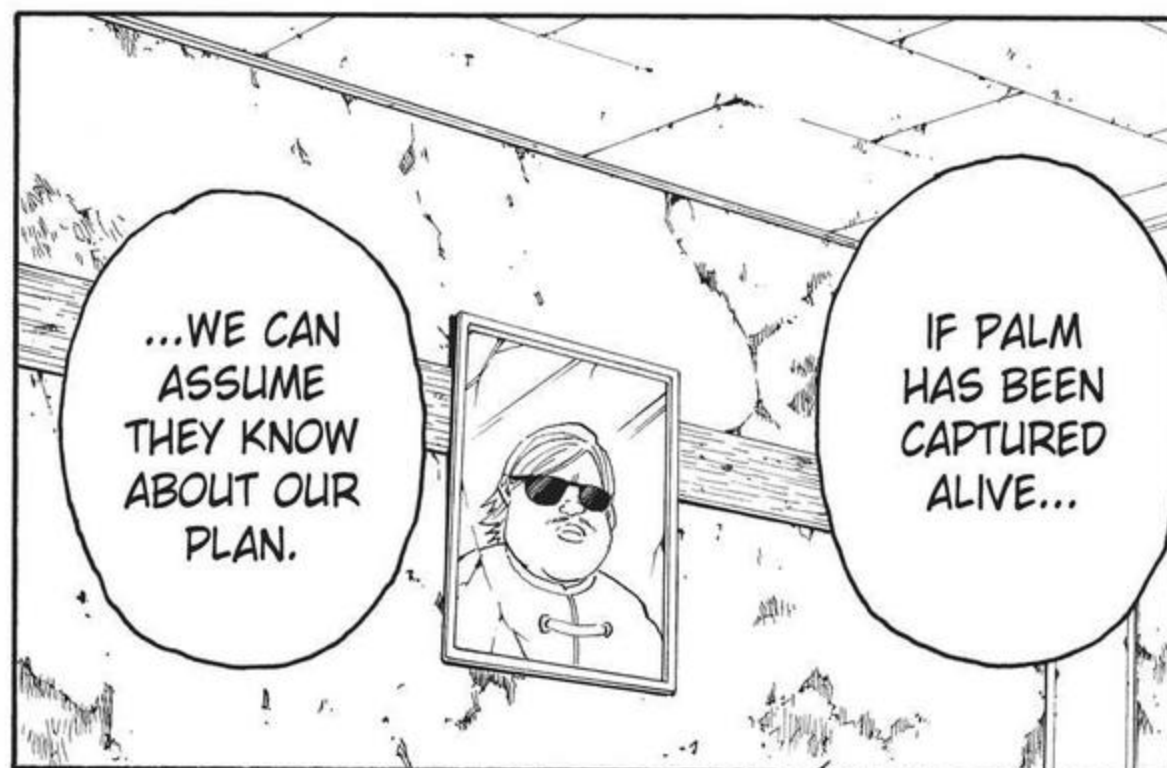
GON, KILLUA
AND IKALGO
WILL BE IN
FRONT.

B-B-B-B
B-B-B-B

RIGHT. A
FORMATION
LIKE SO.









WE STILL HAVE TWO DAYS.



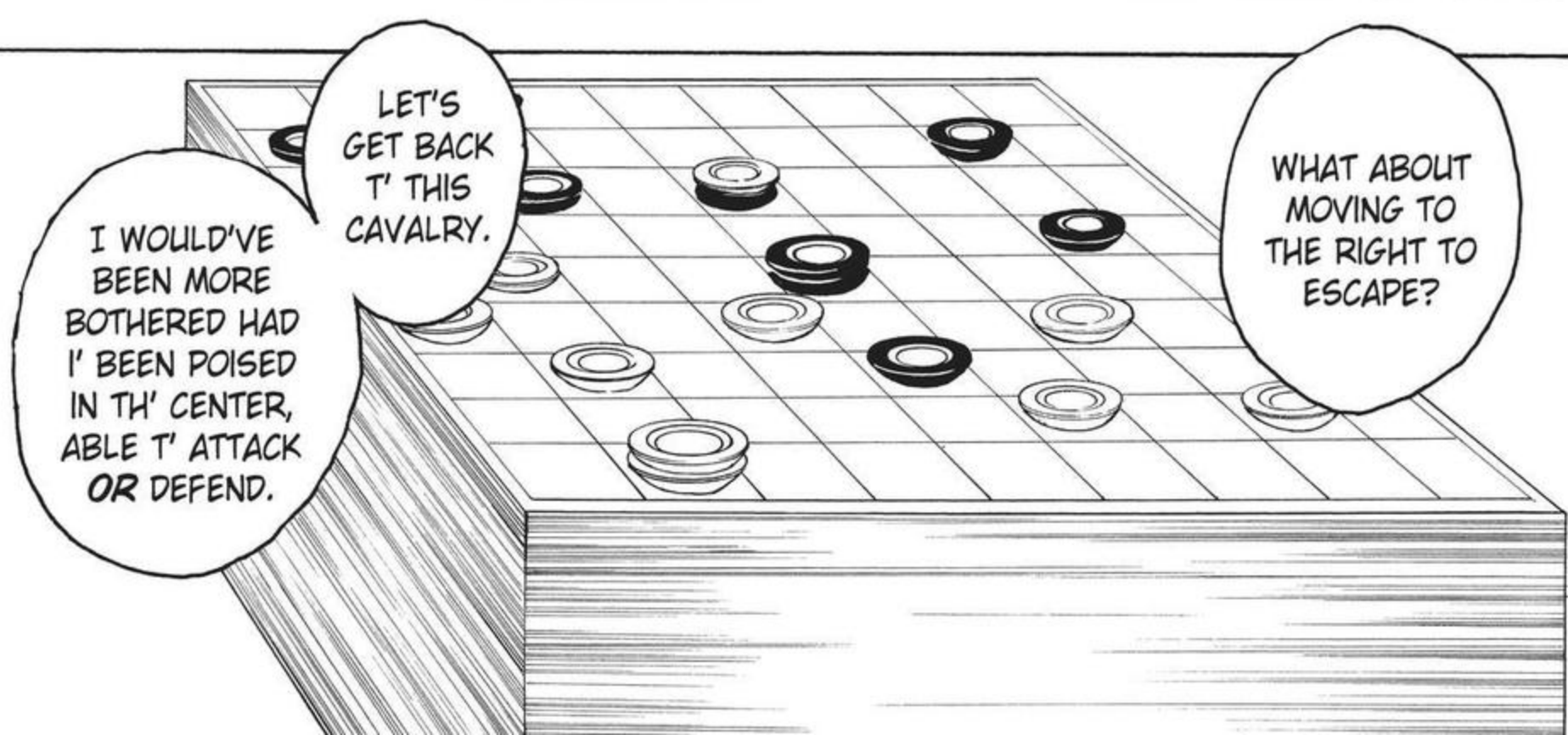
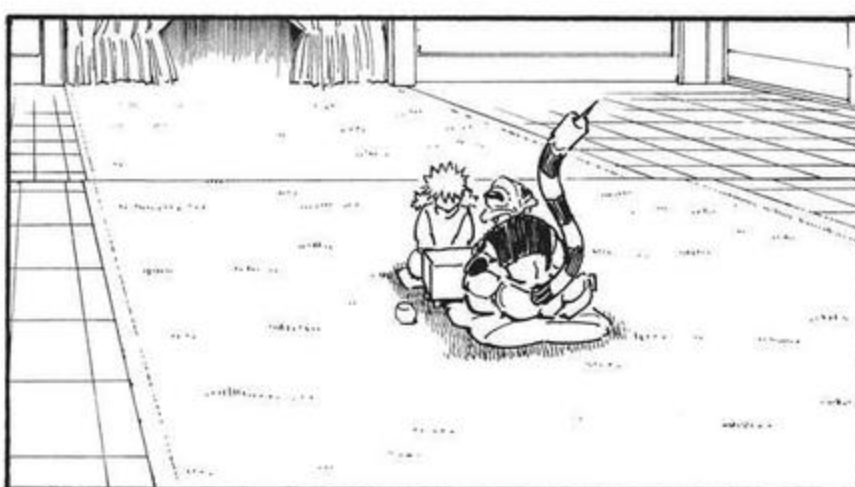
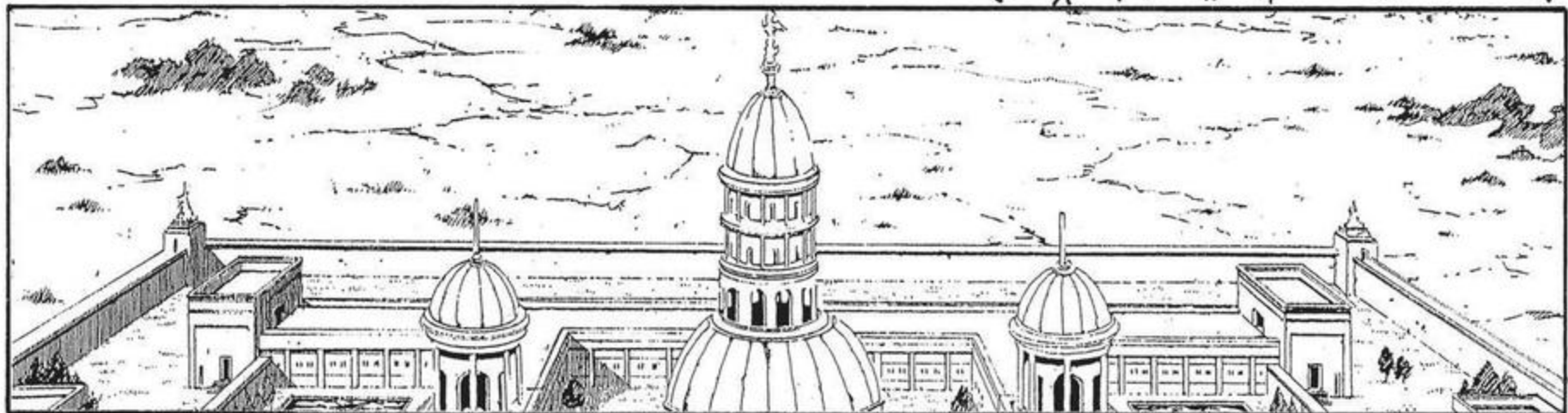
BUT FORGET ABOUT HER UNTIL IT'S OVER!!

LOOK, I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED.



...COULD LEAD TO OUR DOWNFALL.

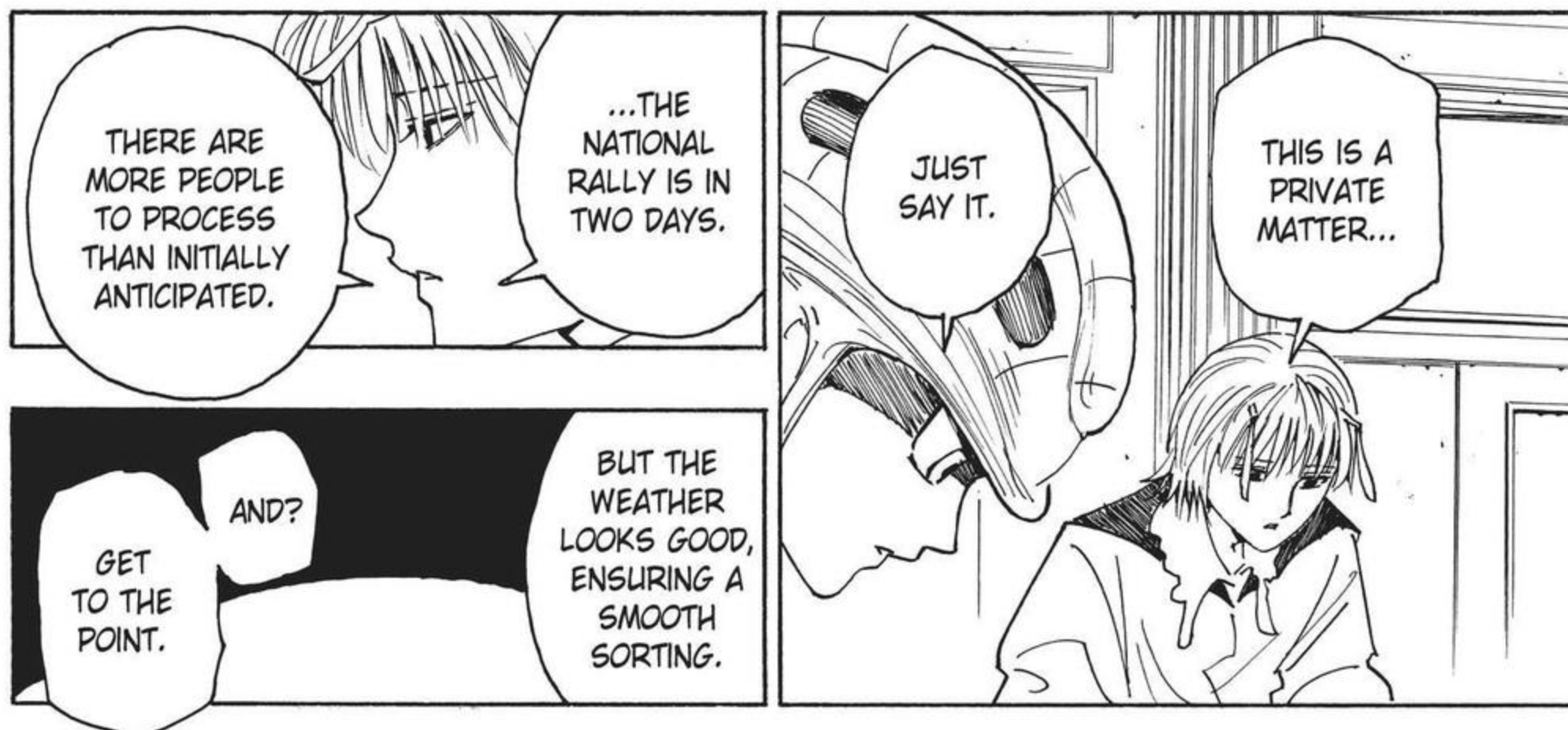
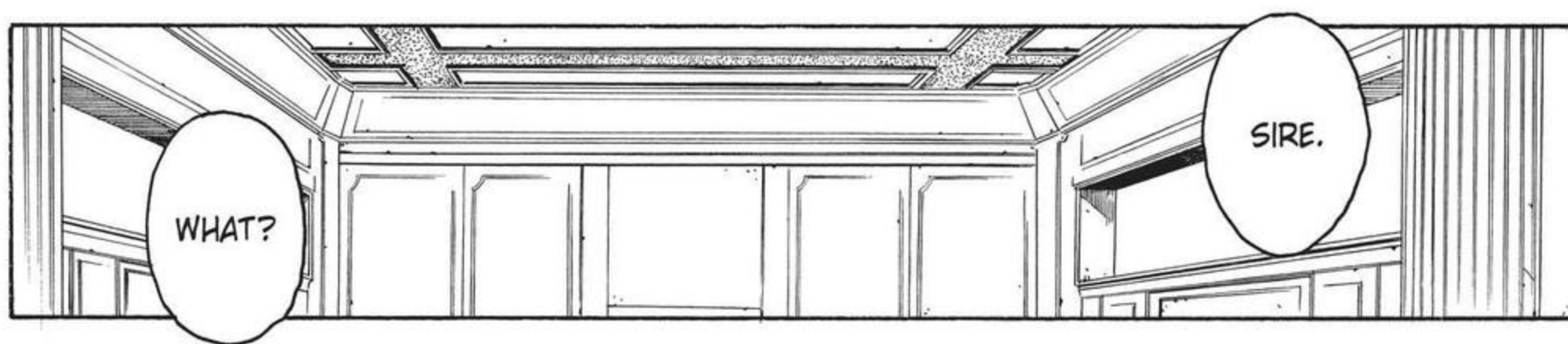
THE SPLIT SECOND IT TAKES TO BE DISTRACTED...



I WOULD'VE BEEN MORE BOTHERED HAD I' BEEN POISED IN TH' CENTER, ABLE T' ATTACK OR DEFEND.

LET'S GET BACK T' THIS CAVALRY.

WHAT ABOUT MOVING TO THE RIGHT TO ESCAPE?





NO
NEED TO
WORRY.

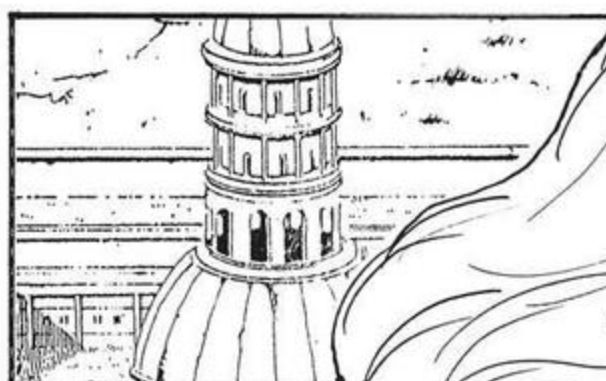
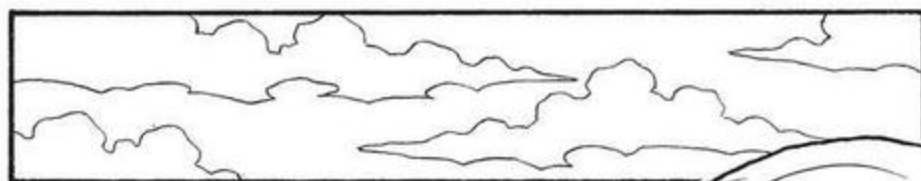
SURE.

I HOPE
SO...

IT'S JUST A
MATTER OF
TIME, RIGHT?

...

I'M UNABLE
TO PREDICT
IT ANYMORE.



THE SAME
GUY WHO
KILLED
LEOL!!

I'M
POSITIVE
HE'S
ACTING
ALONE...



...BUT
THEY'RE
OF HIGHER
QUALITY!!

HE USES
FEWER
PUPPETS
THAN I
DO...

THEIR
COMPLEX
BEHAVIOR
CERTAINLY
KEPT ME IN
A FOG.

WELFIN
REPORTED
THE SOLDIERS
WERE SMOKE
PUPPETS!

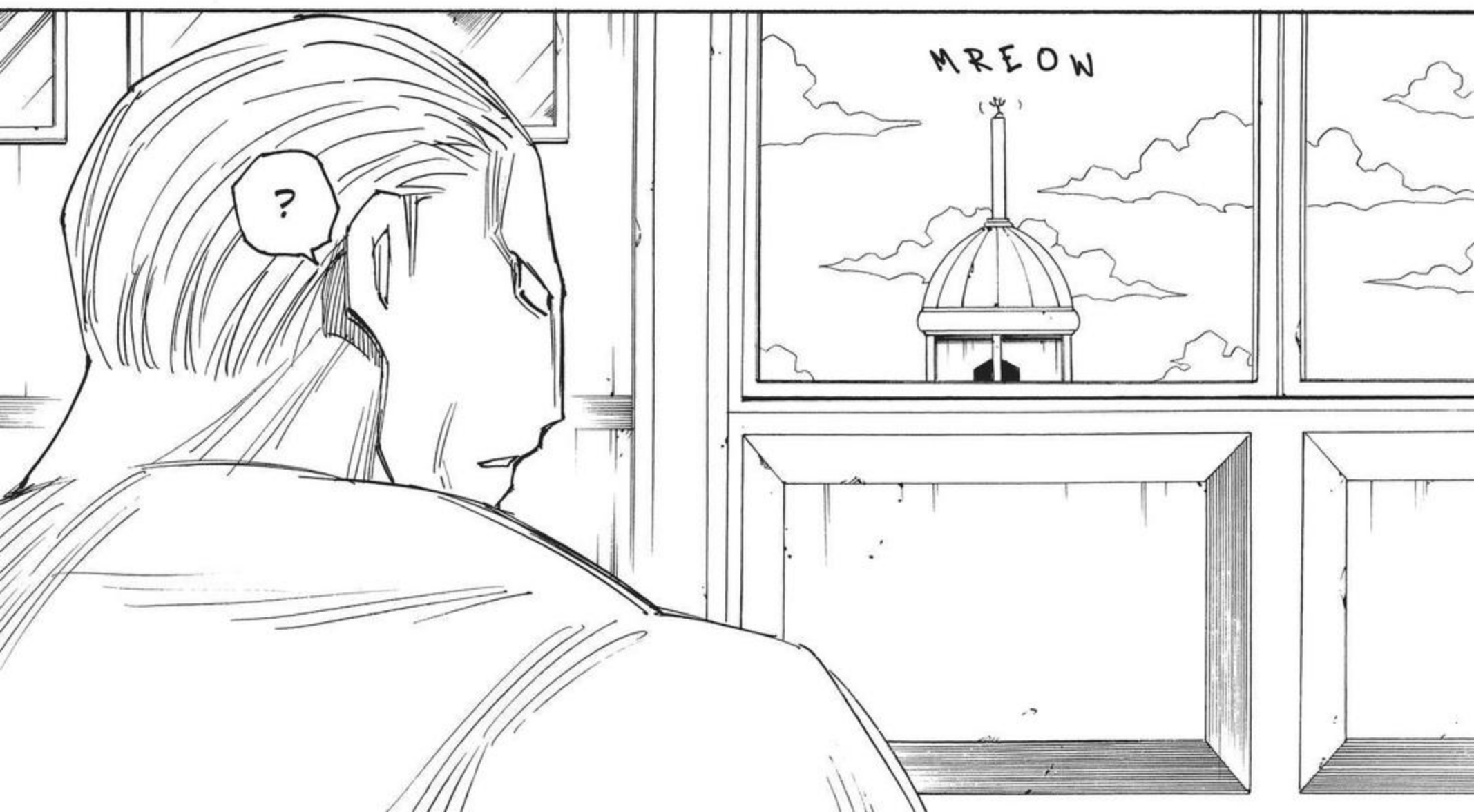


...HE'D
COME
TO ME!

I
WISH

BUT I
CAN'T
LEAVE
MY
POST!

I WANNA
FIGHT...



THE ENEMY
WILL BE SEEING
THROUGH
MOREL'S RUSE
ABOUT NOW.

WE'LL
SNEAK
INTO THE
CAPITAL.

THEY'LL
ASSUME WE'VE
BLENDED INTO
THE CROWD TO
ASSASSINATE
THE KING.

SO THEIR
VIGILANCE WILL
TURN TO THE
CROWD
OUTSIDE THE
PALACE.

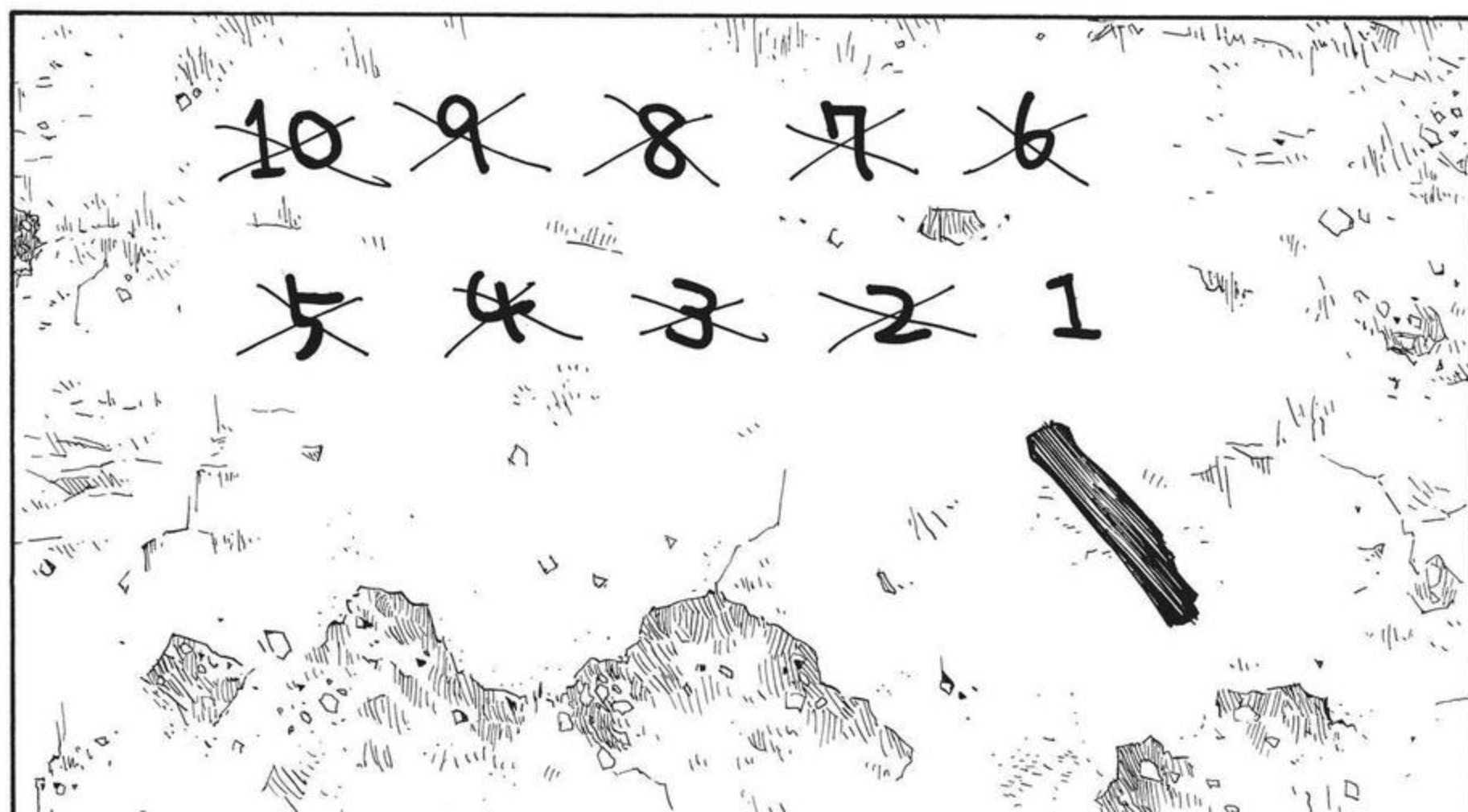
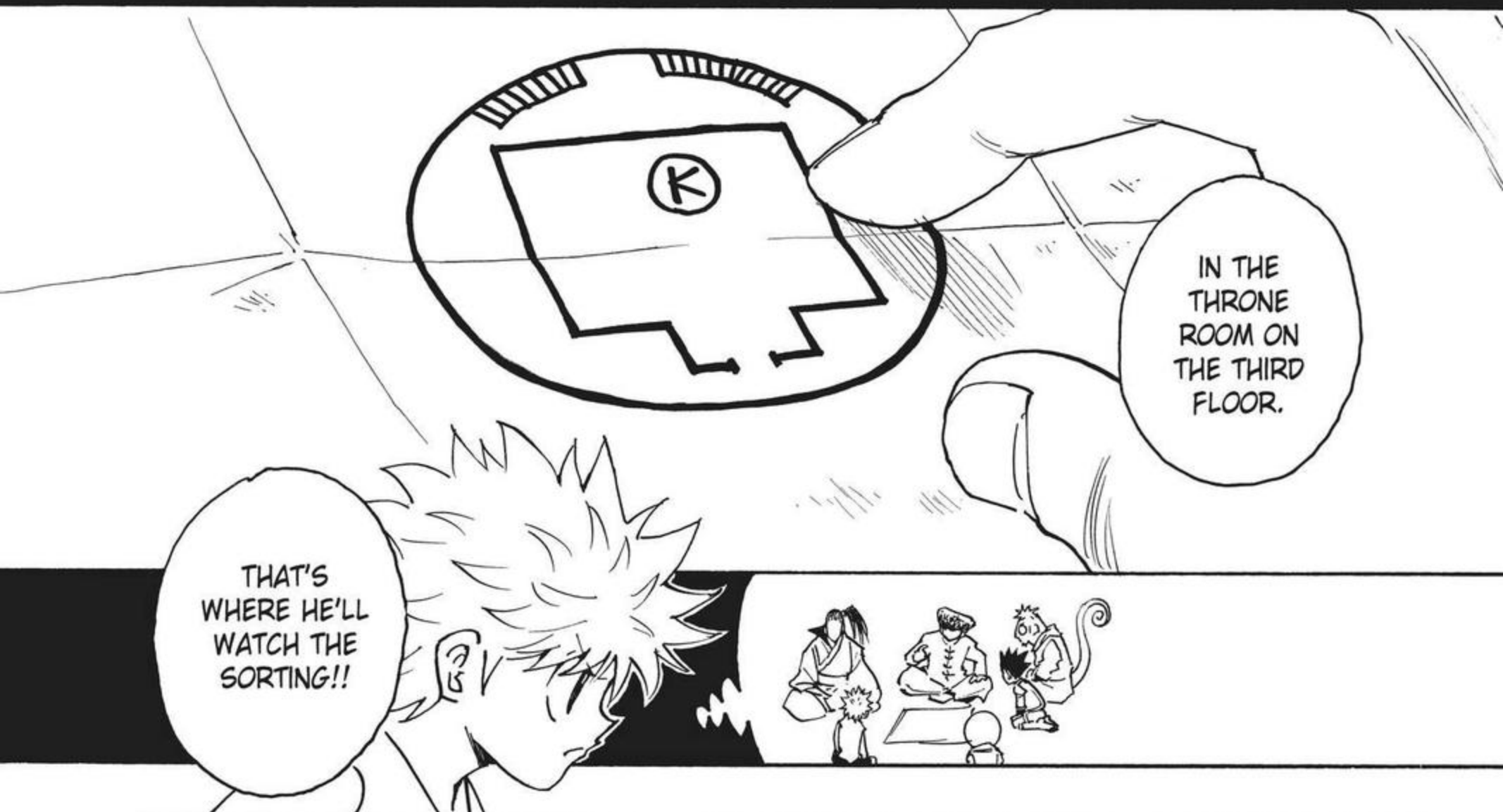
WITH
US MOVING
AROUND,
THEIR SOLE
PERPETRATOR
THEORY WILL GO
DOWN THE
TUBES.

THEN WHEN
PEOPLE START
THE MARCH TO
THE PALACE,
WE'LL VANISH.

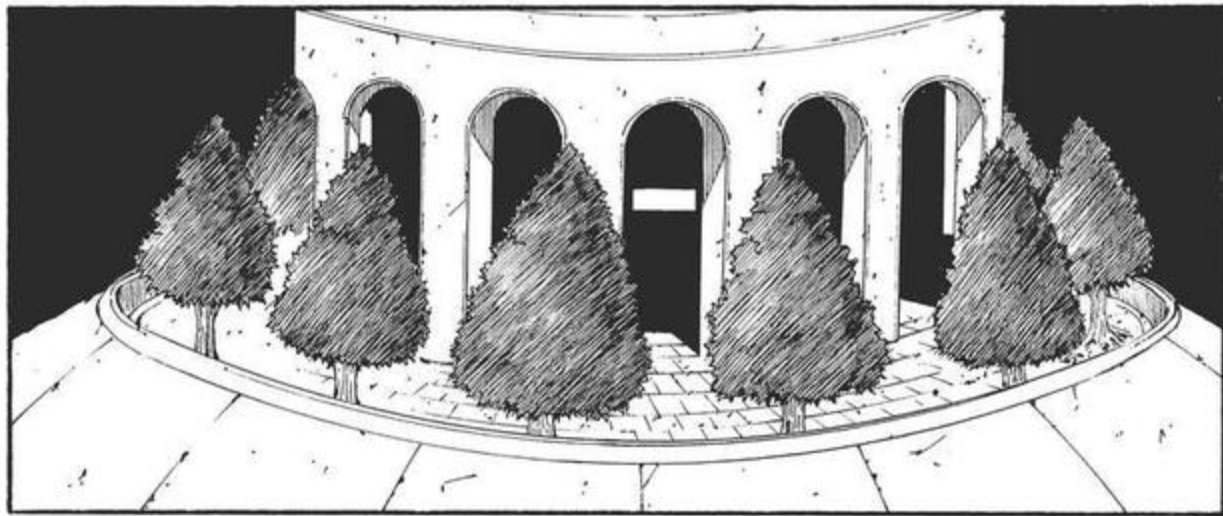
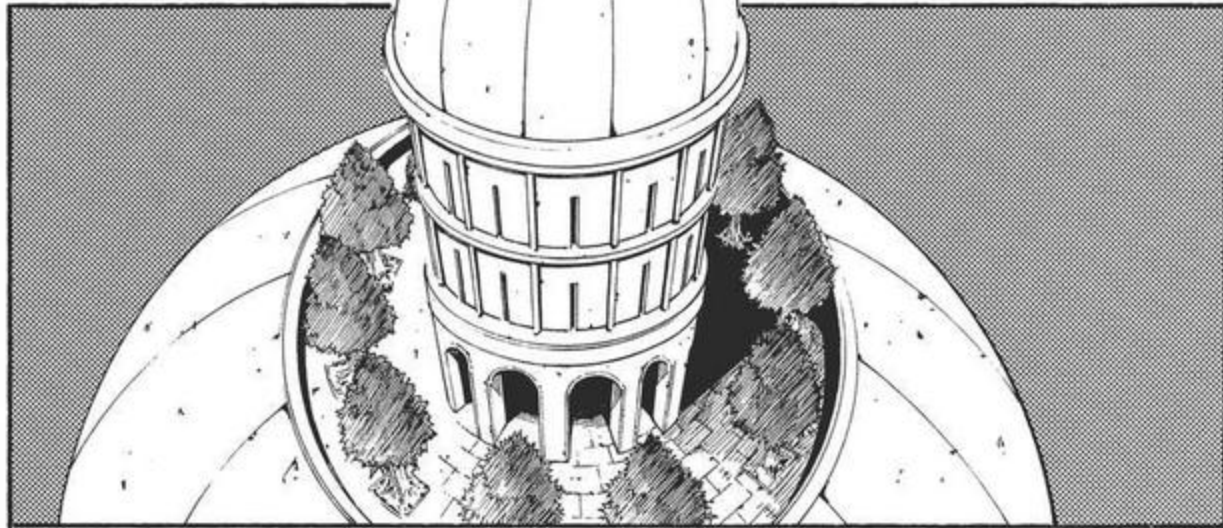
AND WHEN
WE SUDDENLY
APPEAR FROM
INSIDE THE
PALACE...

**BOOM
!!**

TAP







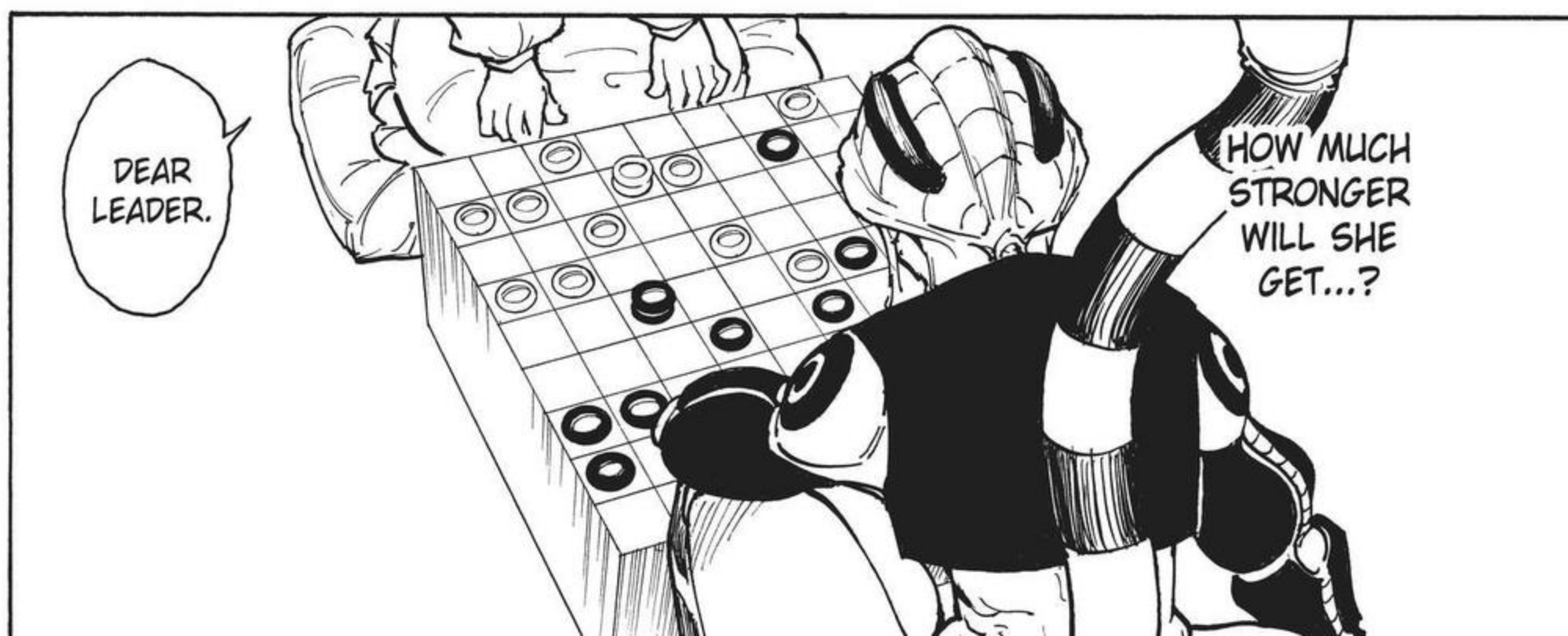
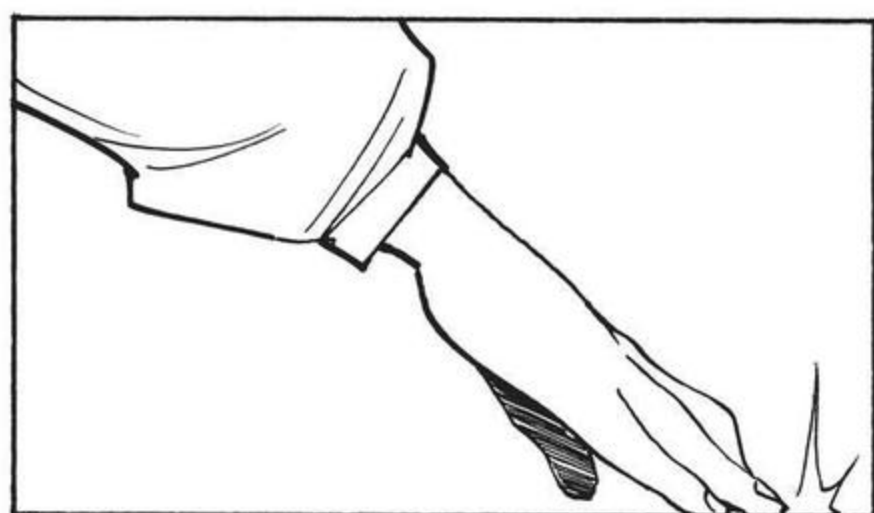
CAVALRY
4-5-1

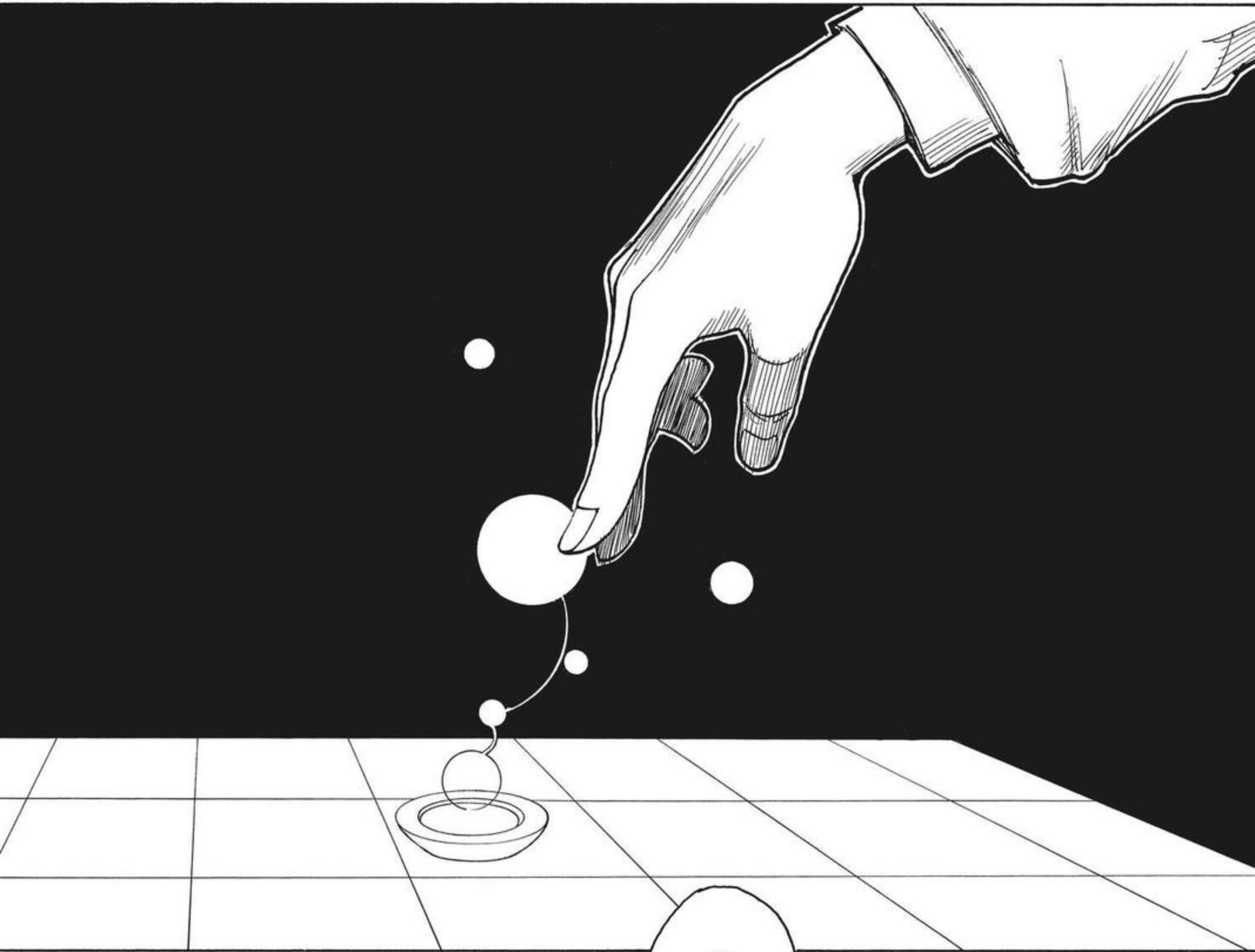
SOLDIER
2-1-3.

DUKE
8-7-2.



Chapter 257: 1: Part 1





...LIKE A
FLOOD.

THESE
WON'ERFUL
PLAYS ARE
FLOWIN' INTO
ME HEAD...

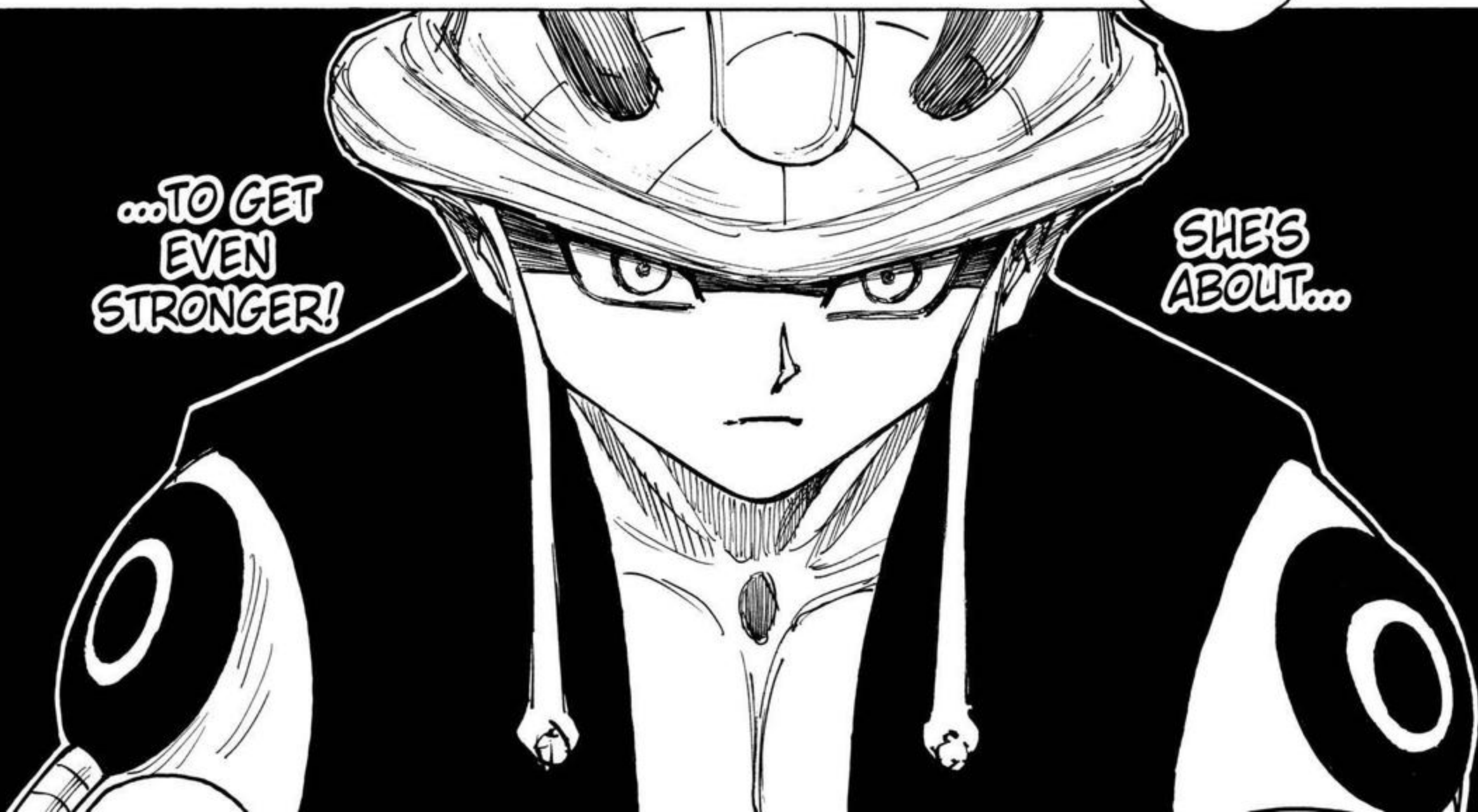


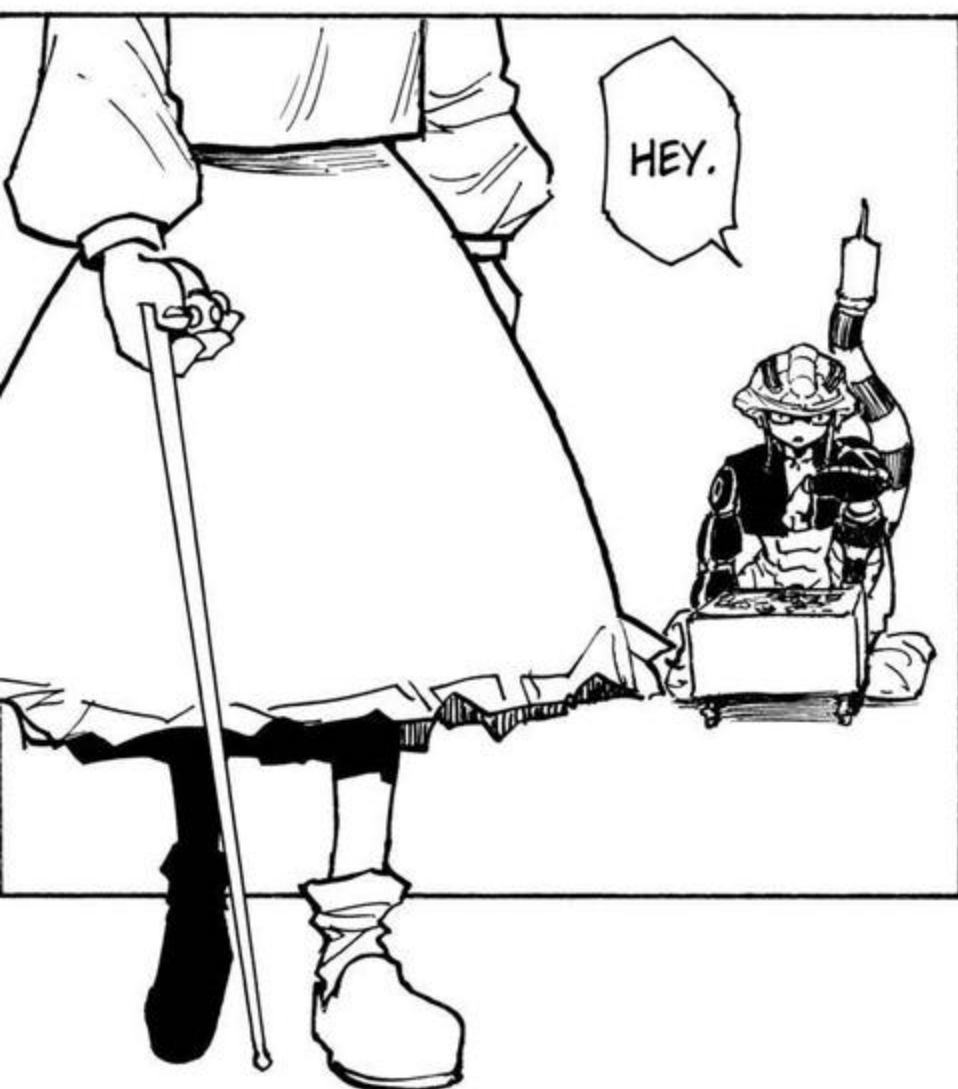
I
KNOW...

...I CAN
BE E'EN
BETTER!

...TO GET
EVEN
STRONGER!

SHE'S
ABOUT...





WHAT...

YOUR
NAME...

...IS
YOUR
NAME?



K-
KOMUGI,
SUH!

IT'S...

WHO
ELSE?

MINE...?

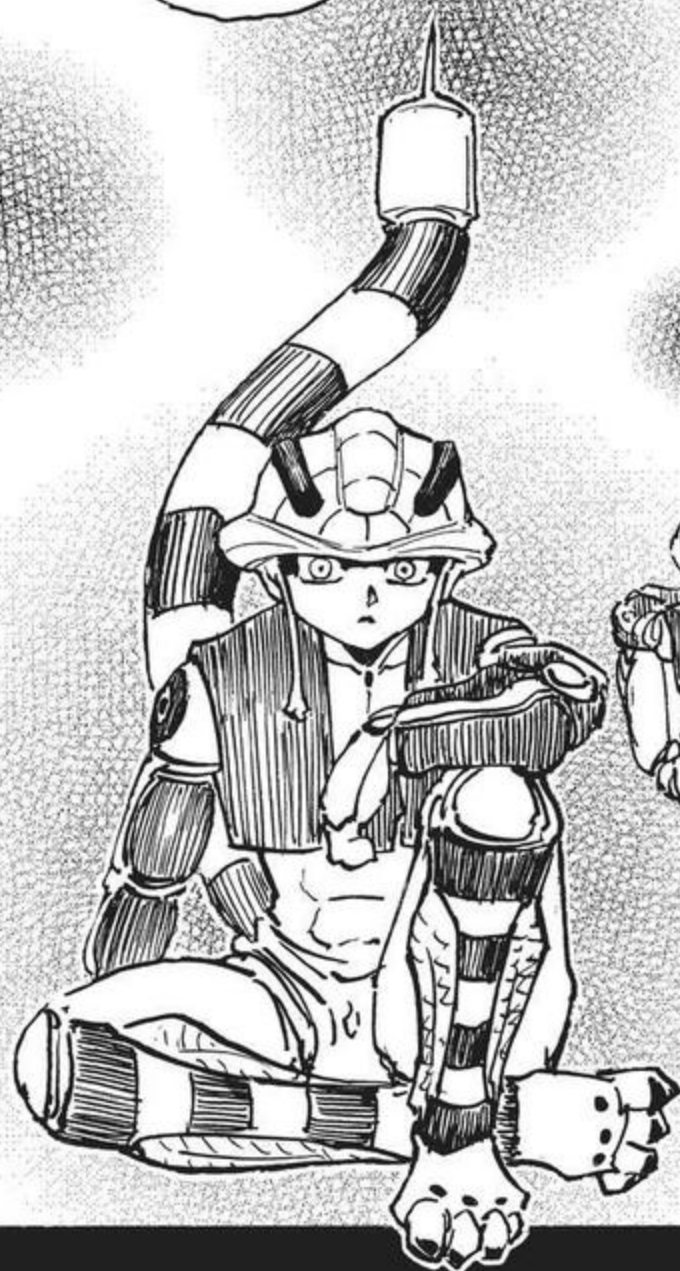
AND...

KOMUGI...

...WHAT
DEAR
LEADER'S
NAME IS?



MAY I
ASK...



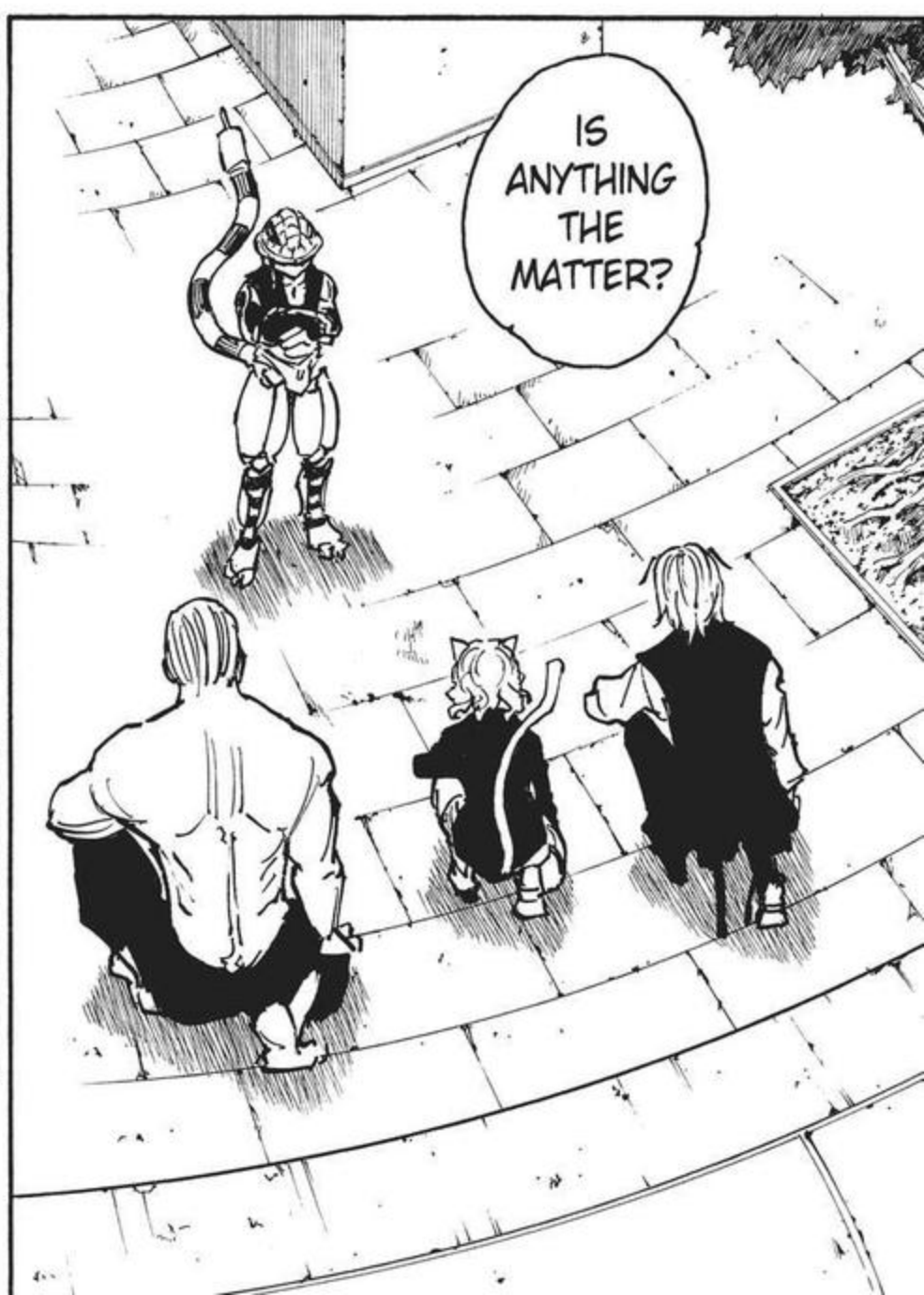
MY NAME...?



WHAT IS MY NAME...?

PITOU!







...IS MY NAME?



WHAT...

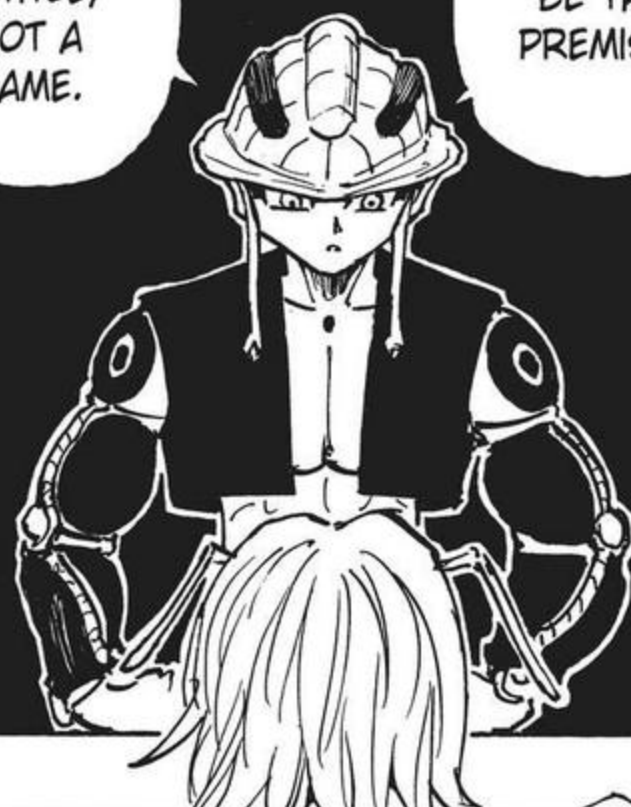




WELL,
YOUPI?

BUT
"KING" IS
A TITLE,
NOT A
NAME.

THAT MAY
BE THE
PREMISE.



I CANNOT
POSSIBLY
PROVIDE AN
ANSWER.

I AM
NOT EQUAL
TO THE
TASK...



PITOU?



PERHAPS YOU
SHOULD CHOOSE
A NAME THAT IS
MOST SUITABLE
FOR YOURSELF.

HMM, HOW
YOU FEEL
PERSONALLY
IS THE MOST
IMPORTANT.



NO
MATTER.

HMM.





SIRE,
PLEASE...



DON'T SAY ANY MORE!!

PLEASE...



IT'S NOT APPROPRIATE!!

IT'S NOT BECOMING OF YOU!!

SHE PERHAPS COULD HAVE ONE DAY...





...PLUCKED
OFF THAT
BUD.

AND I...

...YOUR
OWN
ACTIONS
!!

DO NOT
REPENT
...



JUST
LIKE
THAT.

PLEASE.

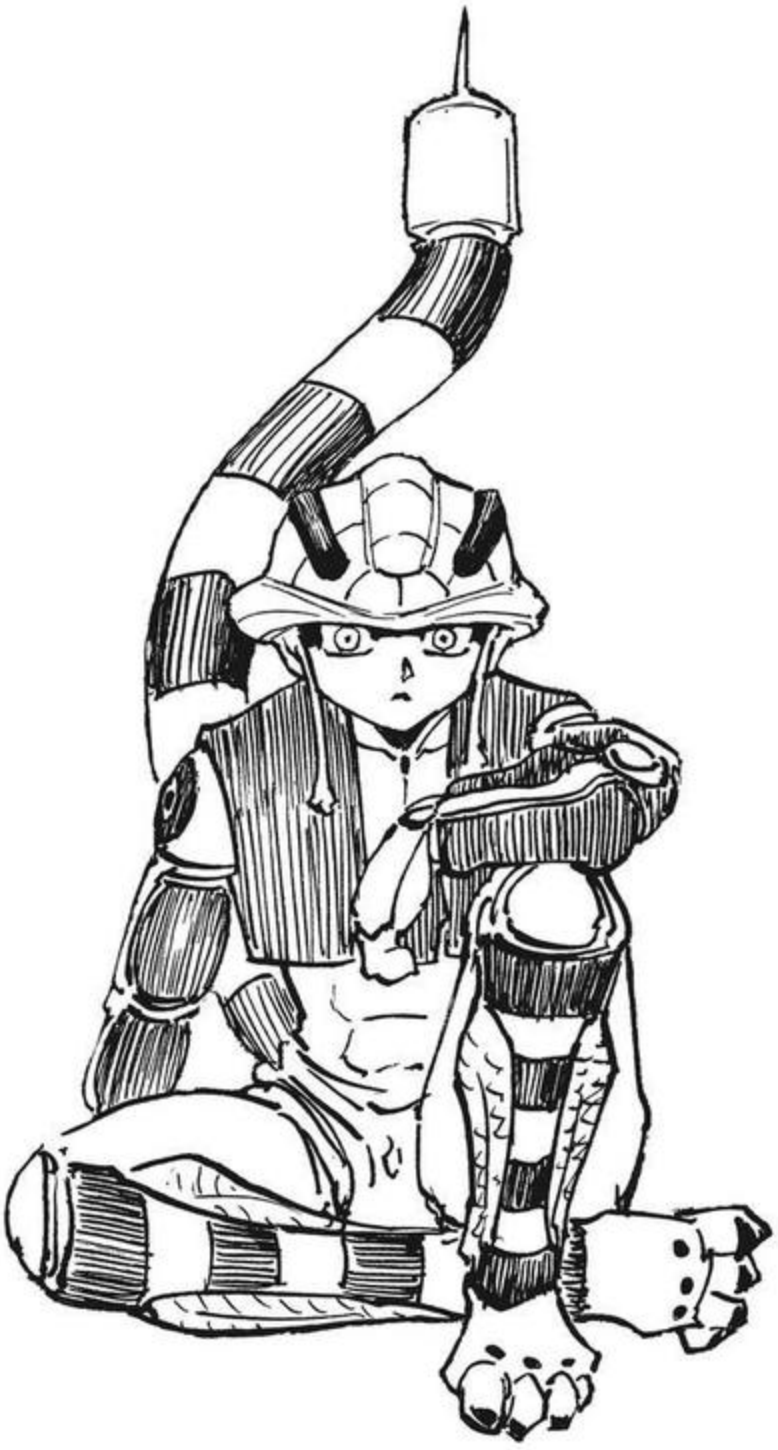
FOR NO
REASON.
EVER.

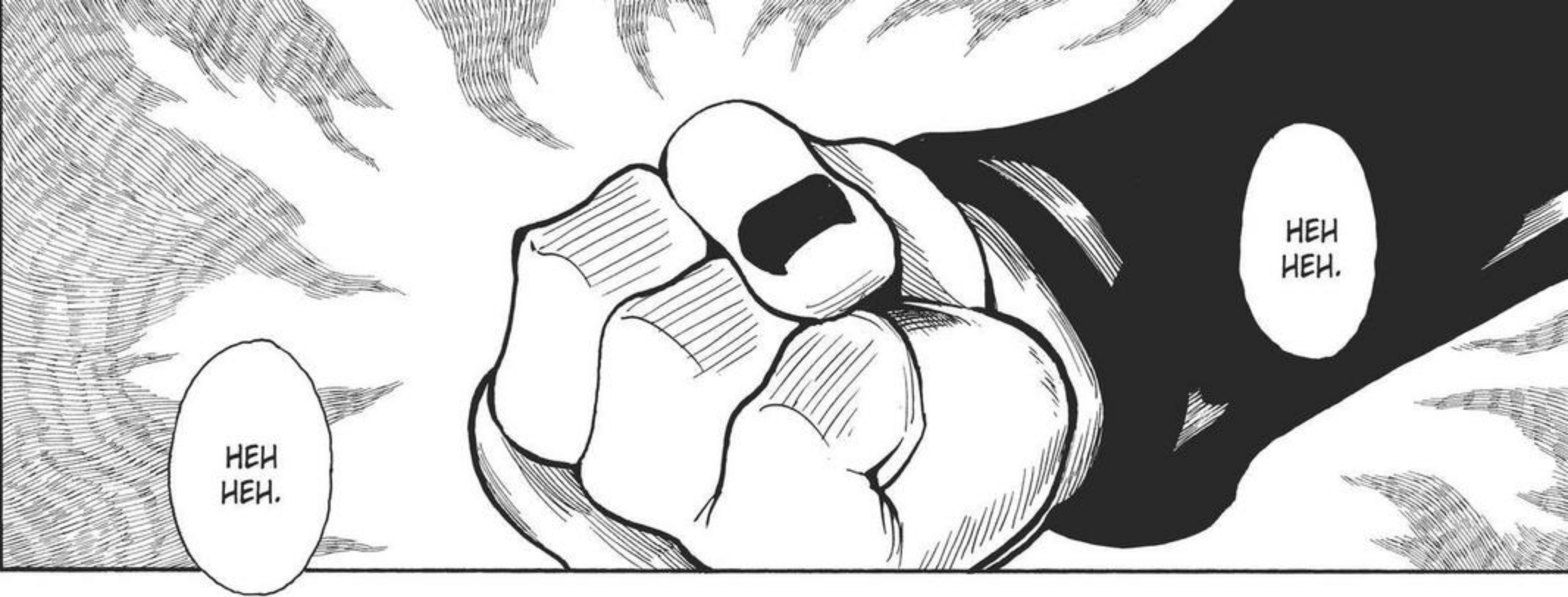
NOT
ANOTHER
WORD
!!!

SIRE
!!

I...







HEH
HEH.

HEH
HEH.



AND
WHAT
OF IT?

HEH.

HEH.



...INCREDIBLE
POWER!!

IT
MEANS...



...FOR NO
REASON.

I NIPPED A
LIFE IN THE
BUD...

Chapter 258: 1: Part 2



...TRAMPLING
AND DESTROYING
THEM WITH
EASE!!

I SWOOP IN,
UNJUSTLY
CRUSHING THE
COUNTLESS
OTHER FRAGILE
"STRENGTHS"...

...IS MY
POWER.

THAT...



VIOLENCE...

...IS THE
ULTIMATE
FORCE IN
THE WORLD!!

...AS A
ROYAL
GUARD.

I
FAILED
...

AND ALMOST
INSULTED
THE KING...

I JUMPED
TO A
CONCLUSION
WAY OFF
THE MARK...

WHY?

?

...REPENTING
HIS OWN
ACTIONS.

I WAS
FOOLISH
ENOUGH TO
FEAR THAT
HE WAS
PERHAPS...

THAT IS
ALL...

YES.

YOU ALWAYS
THINK TOO
MUCH.

THAT
IS A
FACT...

YES.

THE KING
CHANGED
SINCE THAT
GIRL GOT
HERE.

BUT IT'S
TRUE...

HMM.

WAS I
REALLY
THINKING
THE SAME
THING AS
YOU?

SIGH.

A R R R
G H

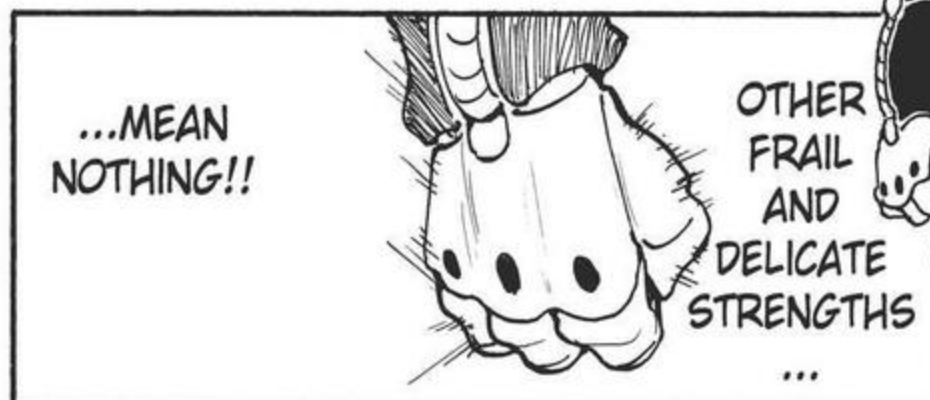
IF SHE'S
A PROBLEM
FOR THE
KING, JUST
KILL HER.



...STANDS
AT THE
WORLD'S
ZENITH!!

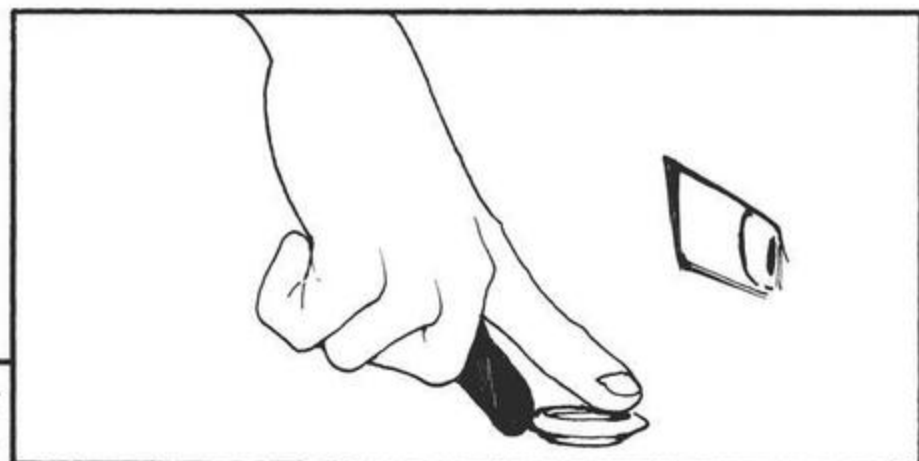
MY
POWER...

YES.



...MEAN
NOTHING!!

OTHER
FRAIL
AND
DELICATE
STRENGTHS
...

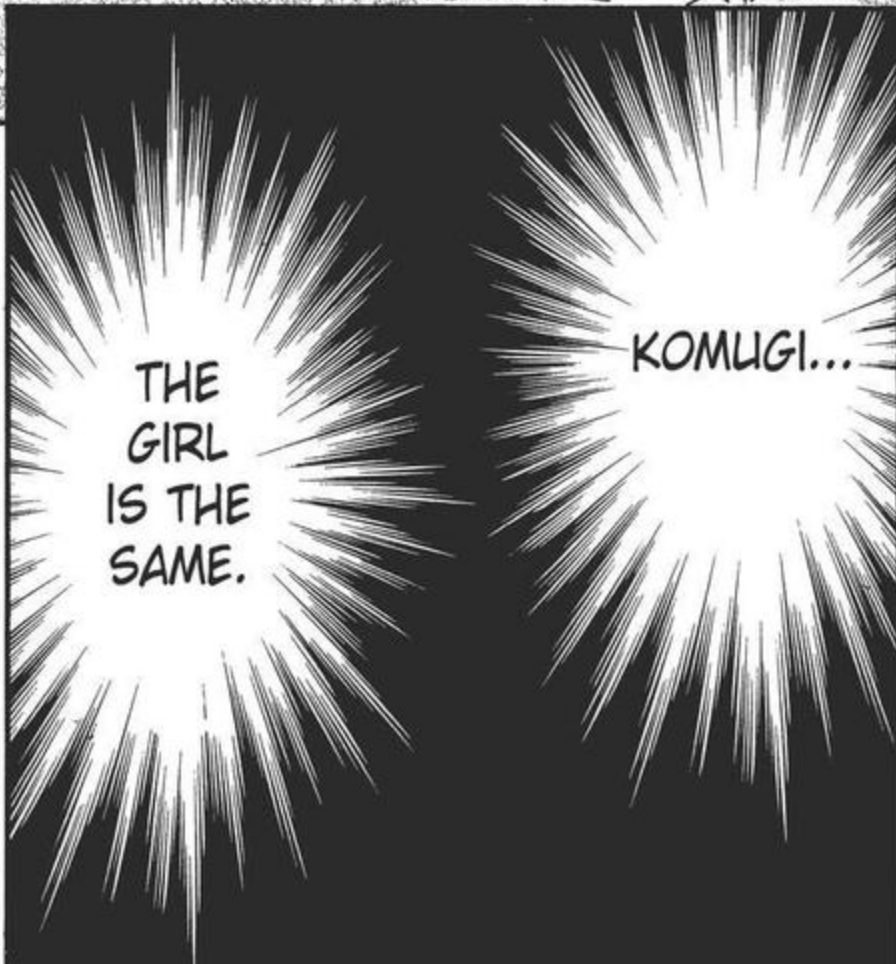


MERELY
DUST
ON THE
ROAD!!



IT'S
JUST A
GAME,
AFTER
ALL!!

IT'S
ONLY
GLINGI!



THE
GIRL
IS THE
SAME.

KOMUGI...



I
COULD
KILL
HER
RIGHT
NOW!!

IF I
CHANGED
MY MIND
...

KRAK

...AND SHE
WILL BE
REDUCED
TO A PILE
OF FLESH!!

A FLICK OF
MY HAND...

...ON MY
WHIM.



SHE IS
KEPT
ALIVE...



I WAS ONLY
KILLING TIME
UNTIL SORTING,
AFTER ALL.

WHAT IS
HOLDING
ME
BACK?



I HAVE
NO MORE
NEED OF
HER!!

S
H
F

I'VE
HAD
MY
FUN.



IT'S
TIME
TO
END
IT!

S
H
F

AND
THAT'S
TOMOR-
ROW!

S
H
F

LET'S KILL
HER...

...

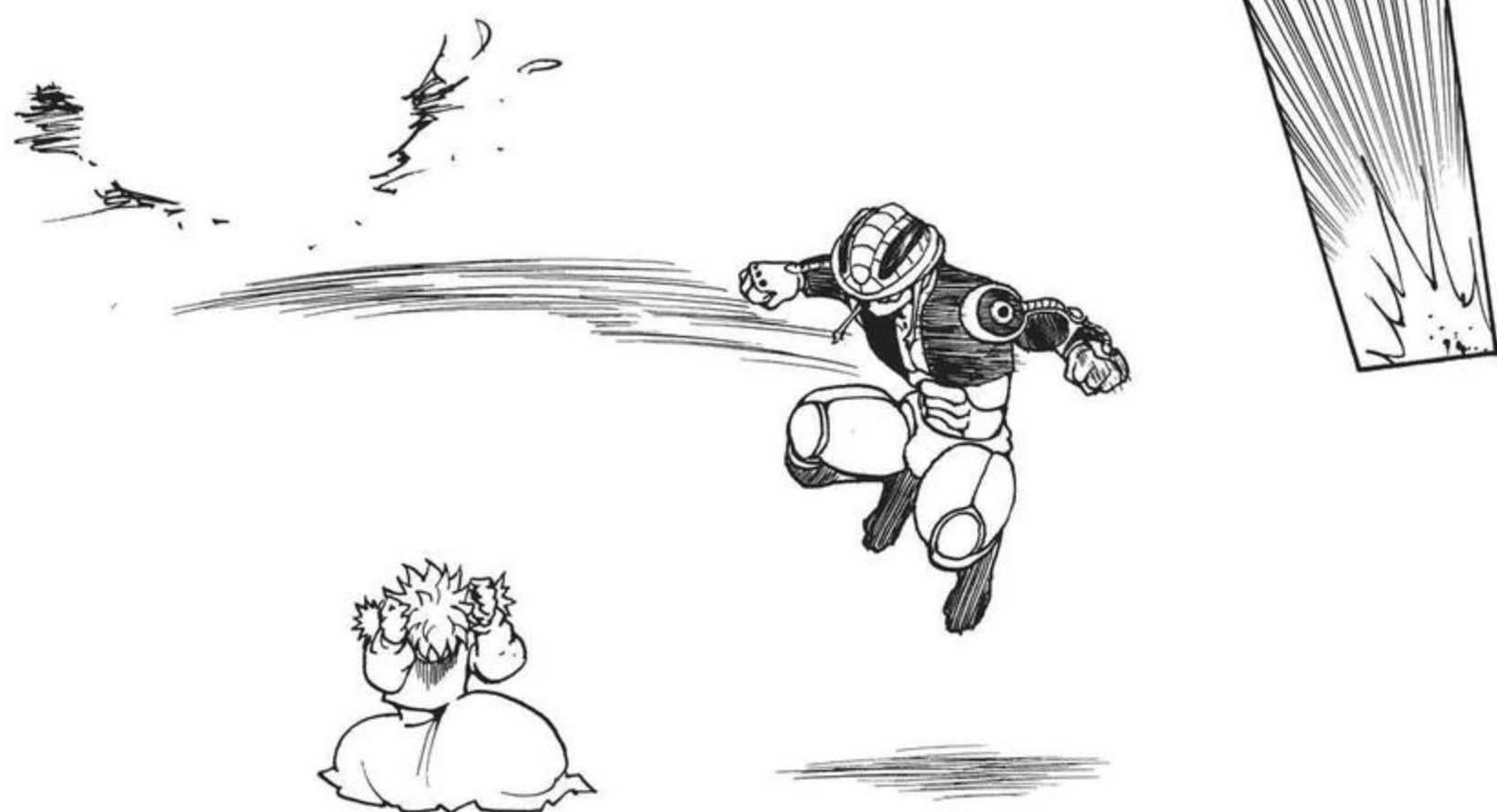
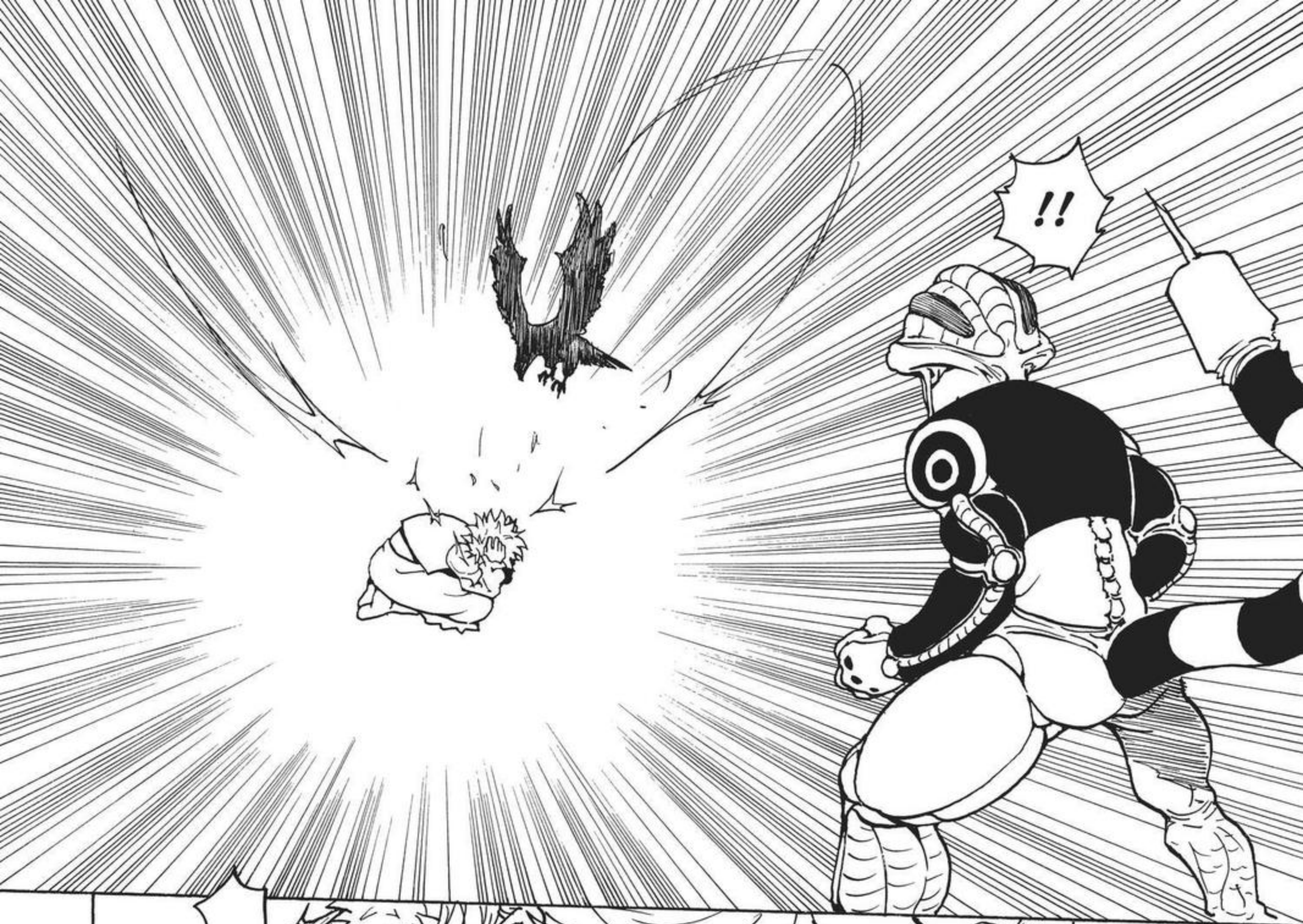


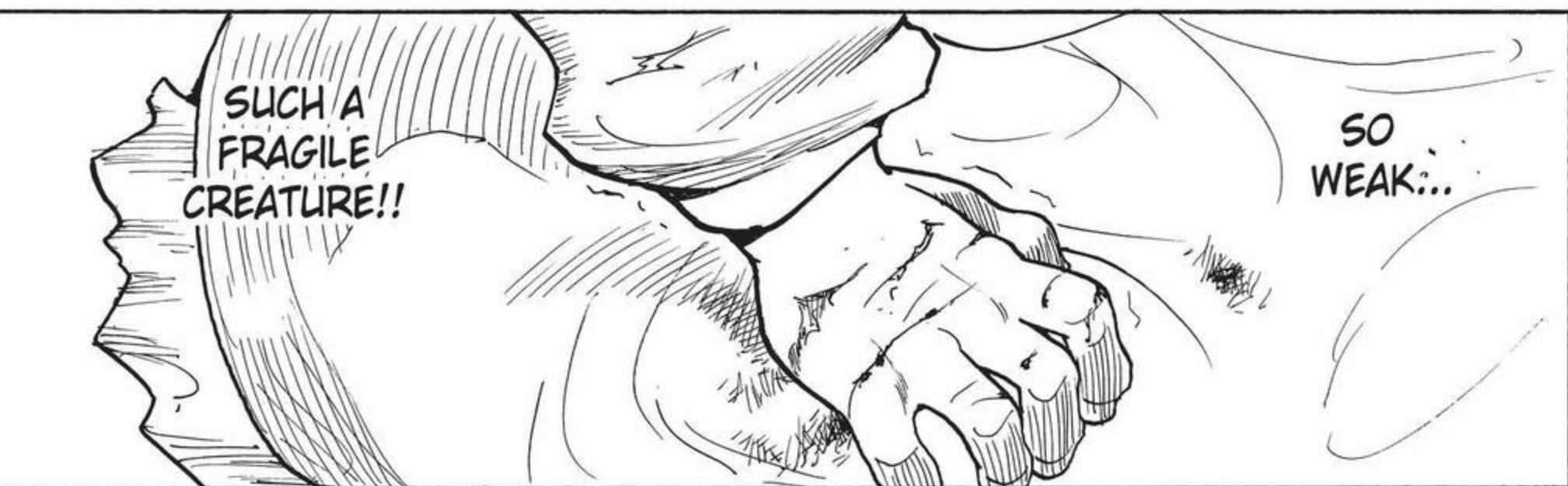
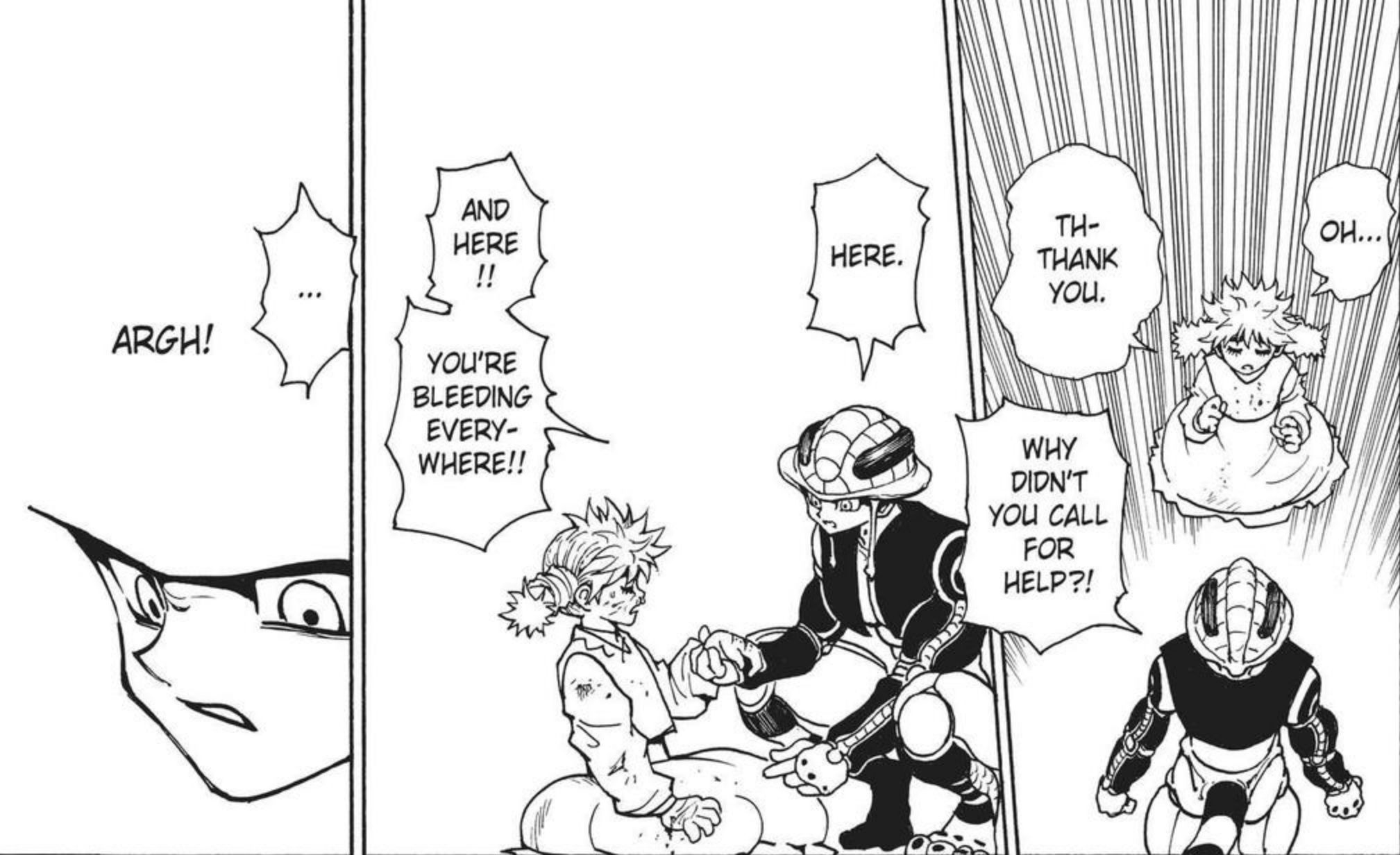
RIGHT
NOW!!

WH

AM

2







WHAT
AM I
SAY-
ING?

YOU
ARE...AN
IMPORTANT
GUEST.

WHAT
?

YOU'RE NOT AN
INCONVENIENCE.

DIDN'T I COME HERE TO KILL HER JUST NOW...?



WHY IS SHE CRYING?! WHY DIDN'T I KILL HER?!



HOW
?!

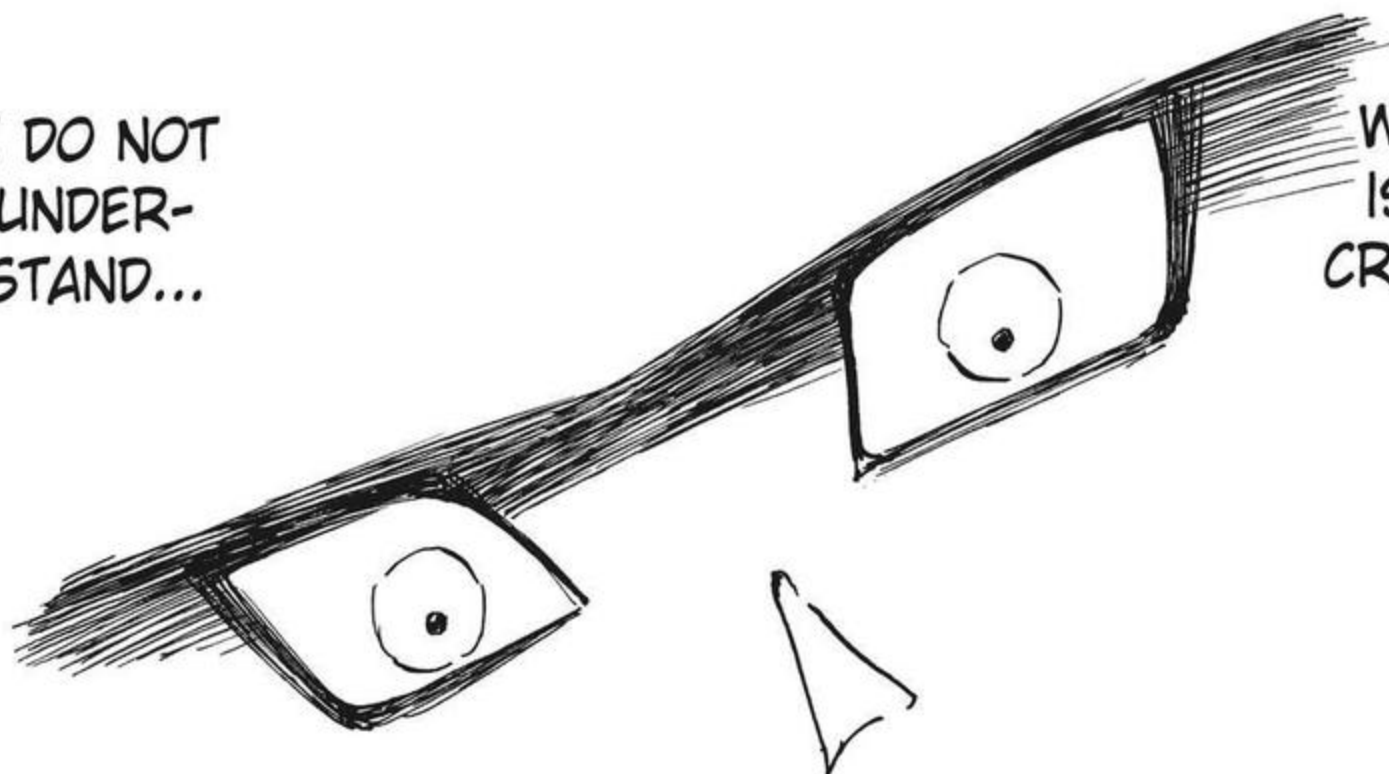
WAAAH!

WHY
?!

NOBODY'S
EVER BEEN
SO NICE T'
ME BEFORE!

I'M...SO
SORRY...

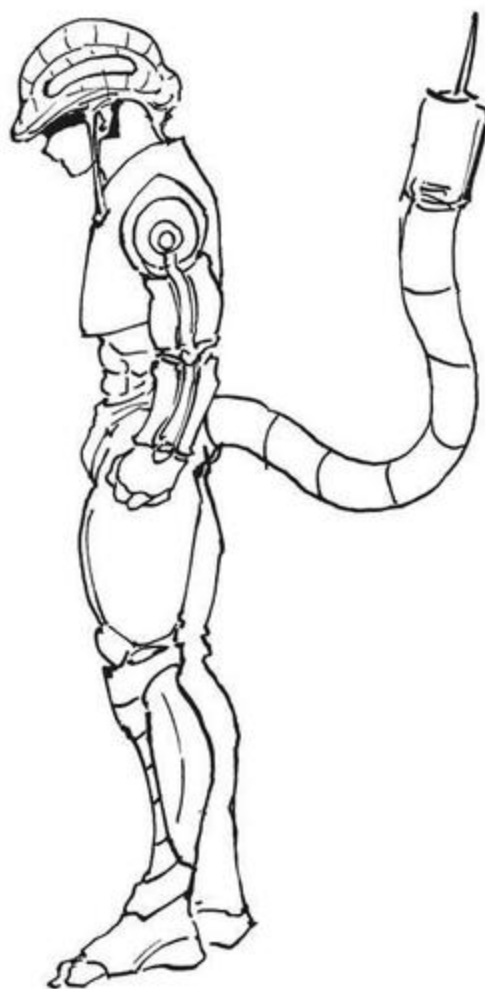
I DO NOT
UNDER-
STAND...



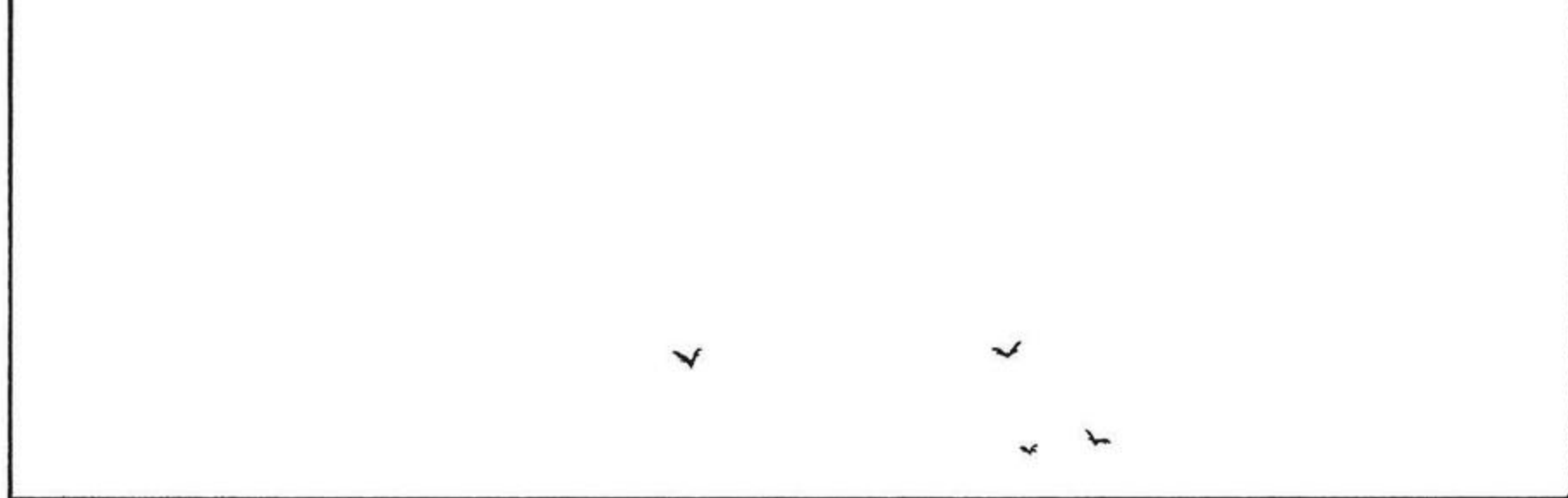
WHAT...
IS THIS
CREATURE
...?!

AND
ME?

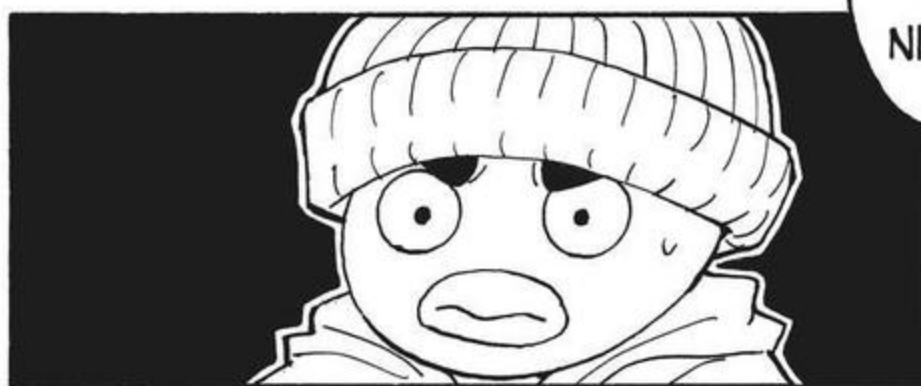
WHAT
DO I
WANT
TO DO
WITH
HER?!



WHAT...



TO-NIGHT'S
THE NIGHT.



LET'S DO
A FINAL
RUN-
THROUGH.



...UNTIL
MIDNIGHT.

WE HAVE
19 MORE
HOURS...

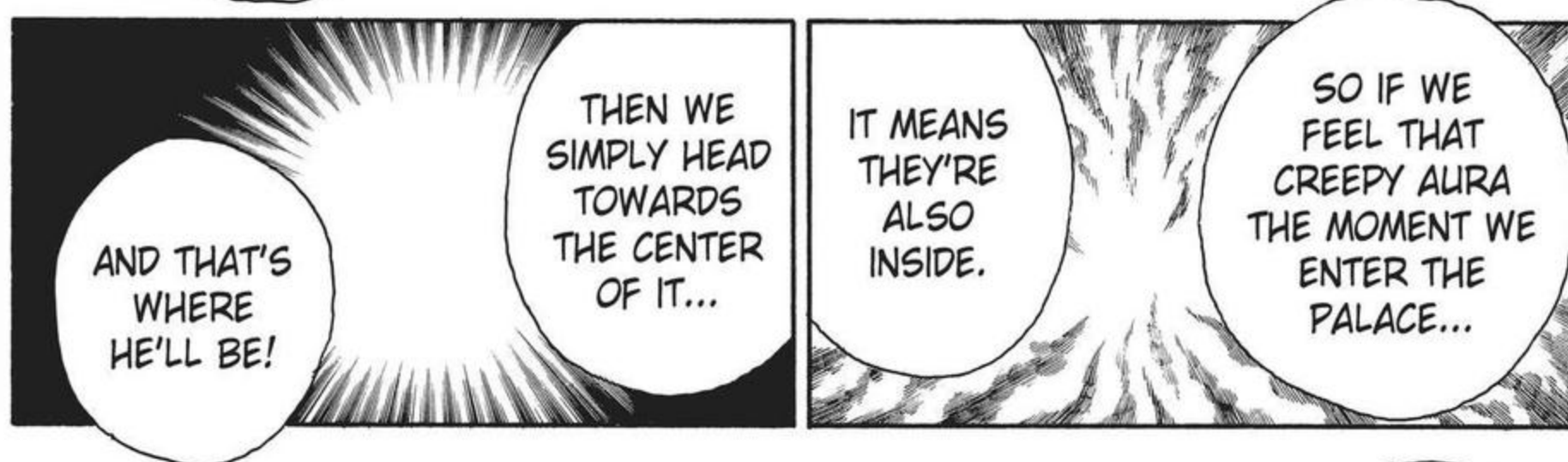
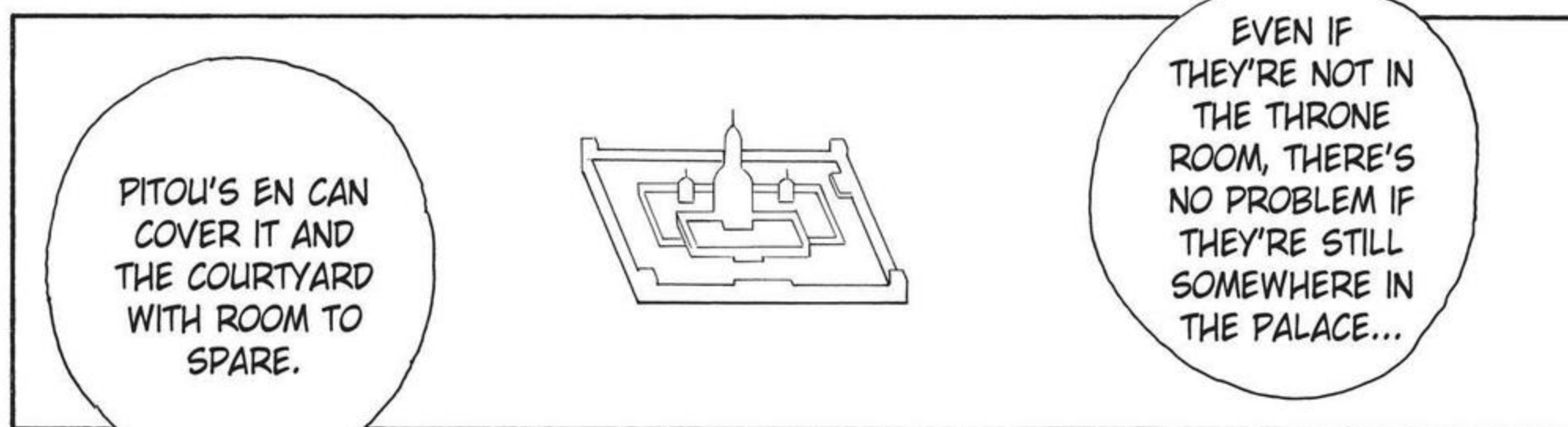


IKALGO WILL
GO DOWN THE
NORTHWESTERN
ELEVATOR TO
LOOK FOR
PALM IN THE
BASEMENT.

GON AND I
WILL GO UP
THE CENTRAL
STAIRCASE,
STRAIGHT TO
THE THRONE
ROOM.

IF YOU
FIND HER,
GO AHEAD
AND ESCAPE
WITHOUT US.







IT'S GOTTA
HAVE
SOMETHING
TO DO WITH
HIS ABILITY.

BUT PITOU
WITHDREW ALL THE
PUPPETS AND HIS
EN, LEFT SECURITY
UP TO POUF, AND
KNOV SNUCK IN AS
A RESULT.



ACCORDING
TO COLT,
KNOV SAW
POUF'S
AURA.

YEAH,
THAT'S
THE
BIGGEST
MYSTERY!

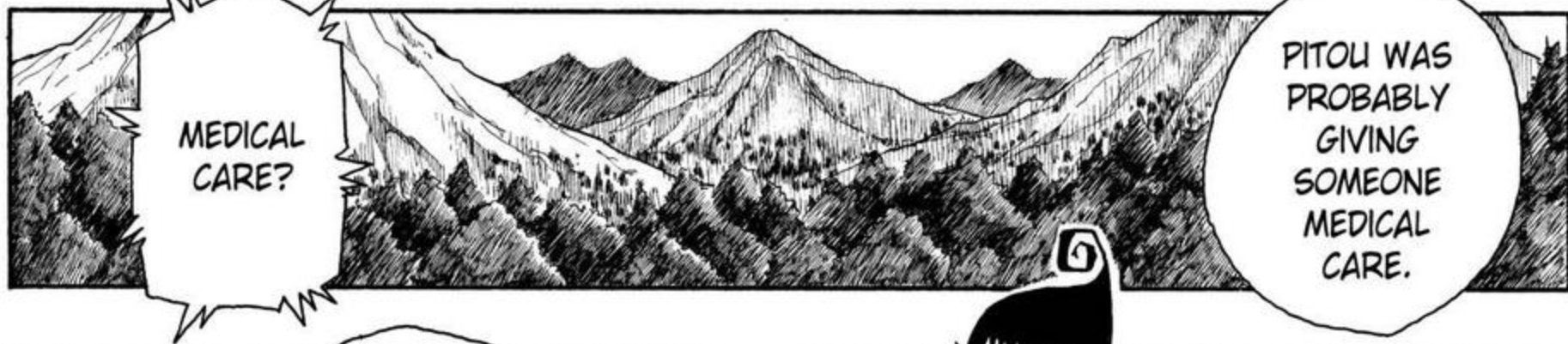
THE ROYAL
GUARDS ALWAYS
STAY BY THE
KING'S SIDE, SO
THEY MUST'VE
BEEN IN THE
PALACE.



YEAH.

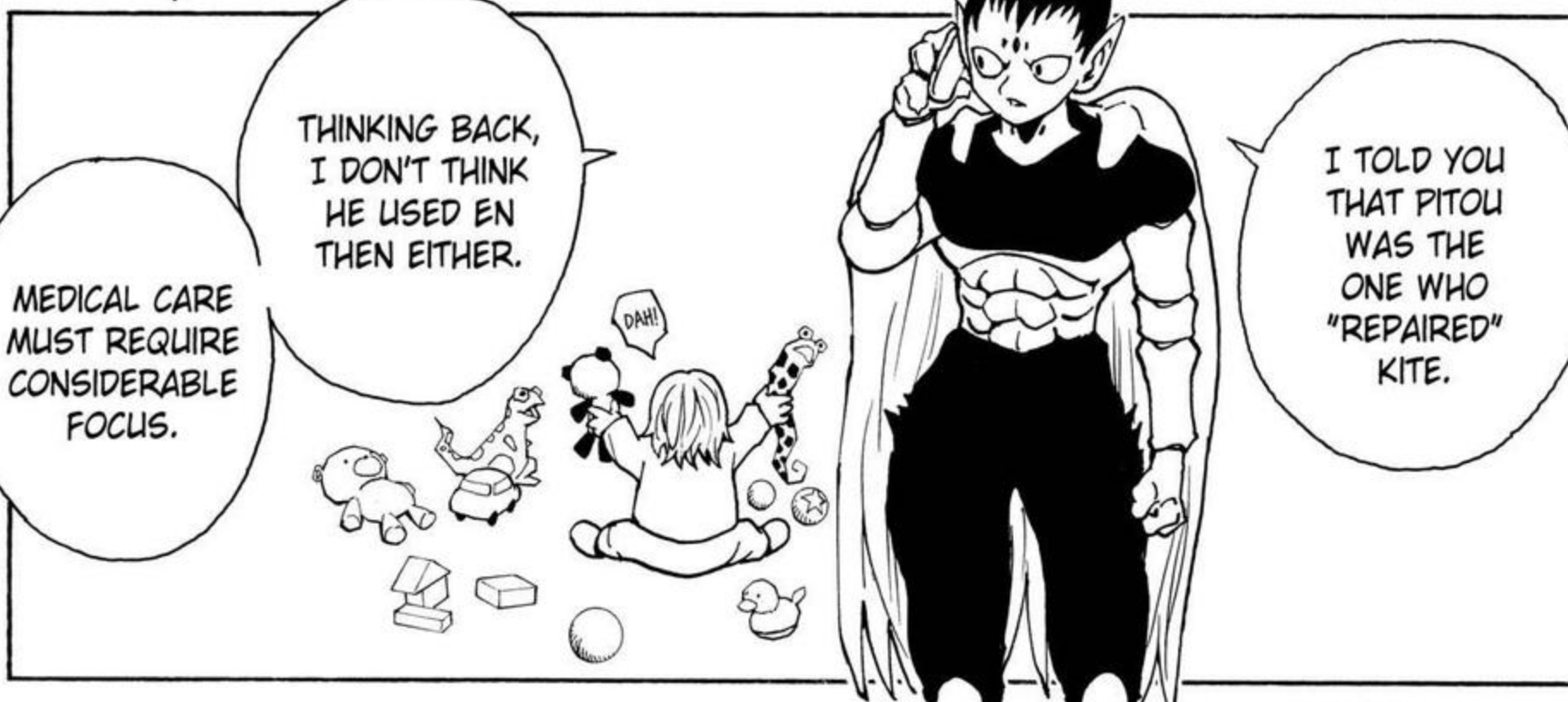


LET'S
ASK
COLT.



MEDICAL
CARE?

PITOU WAS
PROBABLY
GIVING
SOMEONE
MEDICAL
CARE.



MEDICAL CARE
MUST REQUIRE
CONSIDERABLE
FOCUS.

THINKING BACK,
I DON'T THINK
HE USED EN
THEN EITHER.

DAH!

I TOLD YOU
THAT PITOU
WAS THE
ONE WHO
"REPAIRED"
KITE.



...HE CAN'T
USE THE
PUPPETS OR
HIS EN.

SO WHEN
HE'S USING
THAT
ABILITY...



THEY'RE MONSTERS.

WHO COULD HURT THEM?



TRUE...



AND PITOU WITHDREW HIS EN AND THE PUPPETS TO TREAT HIM!

NOW IT MAKES SENSE. SOMEONE-- EITHER THE KING OR ONE OF THE GUARDS GOT INJURED.

BUT...



THAT CAN'T BE.

NO...



MAYBE THE KING HURT ONE OF THE GUARDS.

INTERNAL FALLOUT ...



THE KING HIMSELF WAS THE ONE HURT!

THAT MEANS...



I'M POSITIVE ON THAT.

PITOU WOULD **NEVER** GIVE SOMEONE ELSE CARE WHILE EXPOSING THE KING TO DANGER!!

I SEE YOUR LOGIC.

...



NO WAY THE ROYAL GUARD WOULD. AND THE UNDERLINGS CAN'T EVEN SCRATCH HIM.

BUT THEN WHO IN THE WORLD COULD HAVE HURT THE KING?

I KNOW.

SO WE CONCLUDED...

...HURT
HIMSELF
?!

THE
KING...

BUT IT
WAS CRAZY
ENOUGH OF AN
OCCURRENCE
THAT THEY MAY
BE RIGHT!

WE NEVER
WONDERED
WHY KNOV
GOT A LUCKY
BREAK.

WE DON'T
KNOW, BUT
IT'S THE ONLY
THING THAT
MAKES
SENSE.

WHAT
FOR?!

...IS GOING
HAYWIRE...

SOMETHING
INSIDE THE
PALACE...

NOW I'M
STARTING
TO THINK
SOME-
THING'S
GOING
TO GO
WRONG...

UH-
OH
...



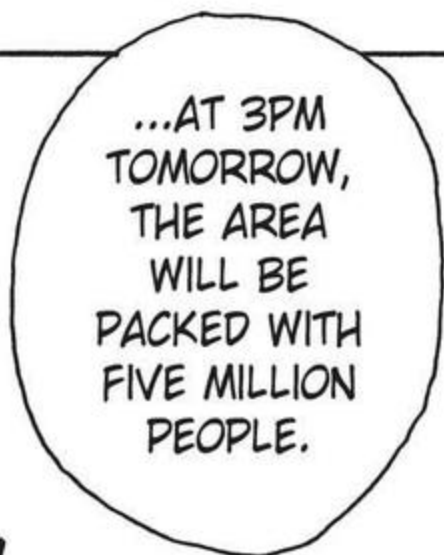
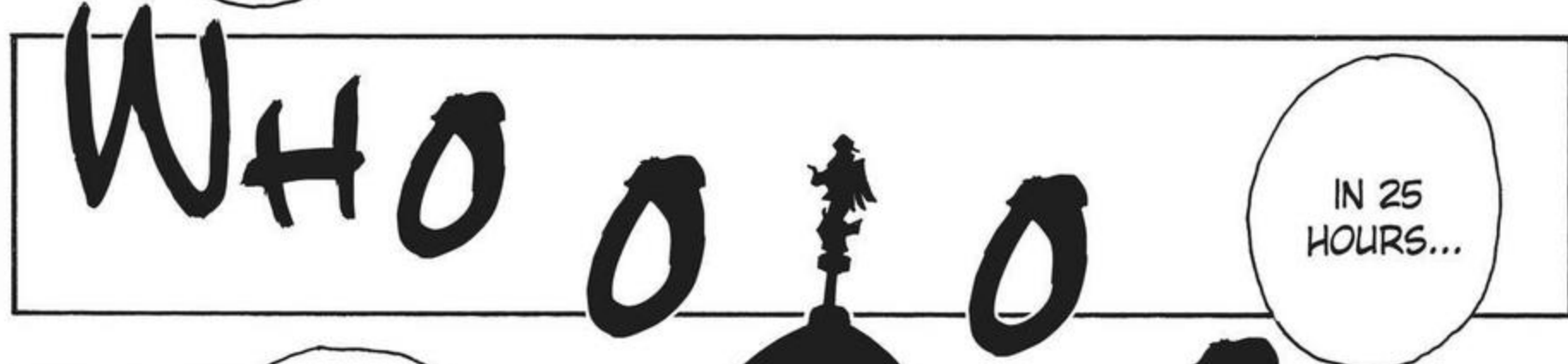
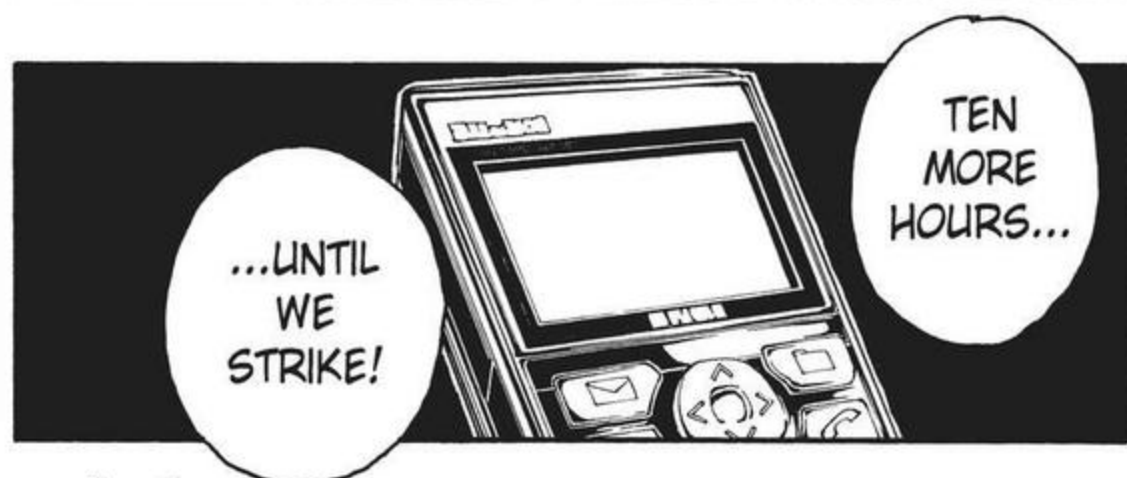


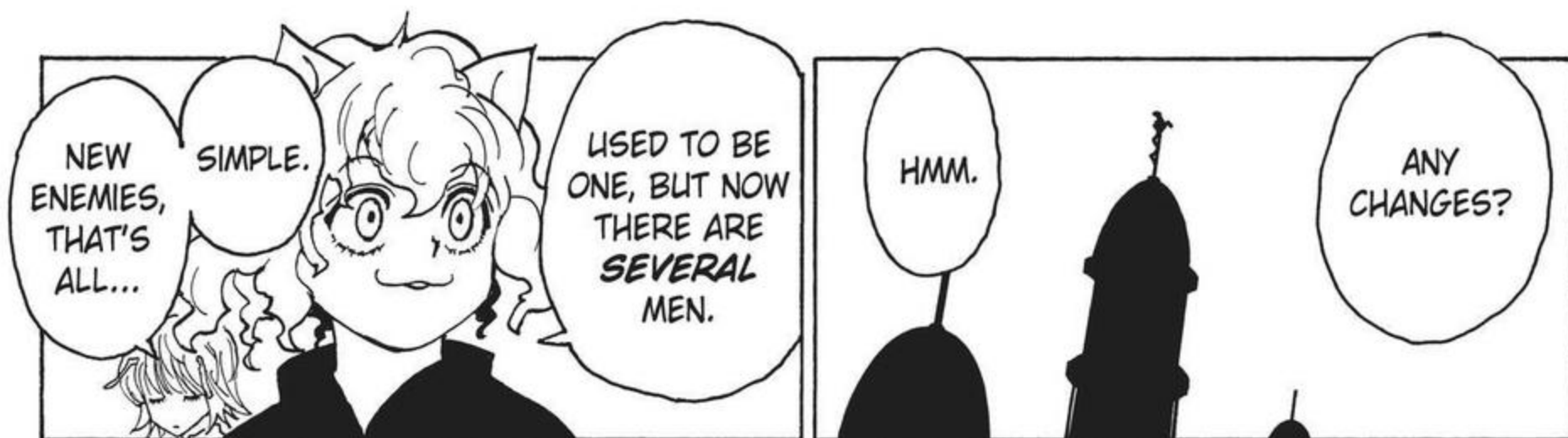
EVERYONE
IN AREA A-1
ASSEMBLE IN
MING PLAZA
AT ONCE!!

WE WILL
NOW BEGIN
THE MARCH
TO THE
PALACE!!

RESIDENTS
OF OTHER
SECTORS
PREPARE TO
MOVE OUT
NEXT!!

TROMP TROMP TROMP







PROCESS OF
ELIMINATION.



GETS
CARRIED
AWAY
WHEN
HAVING
FUN.



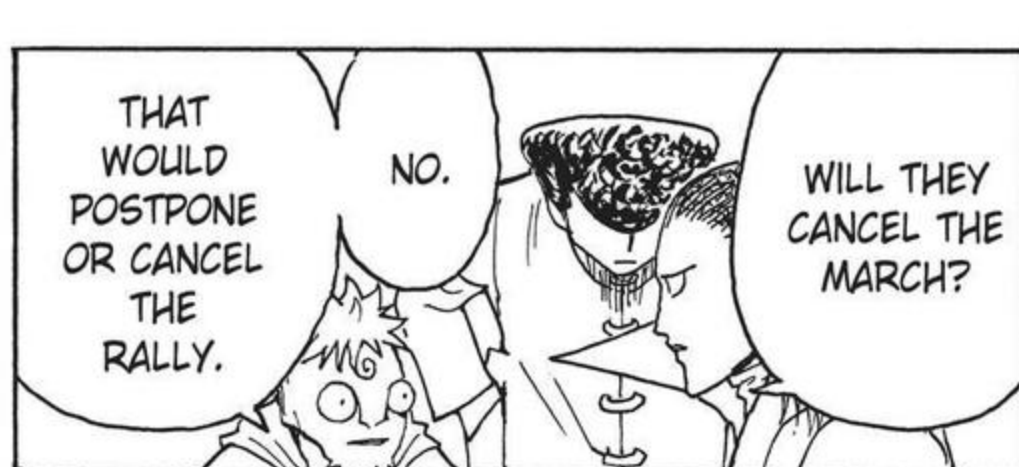
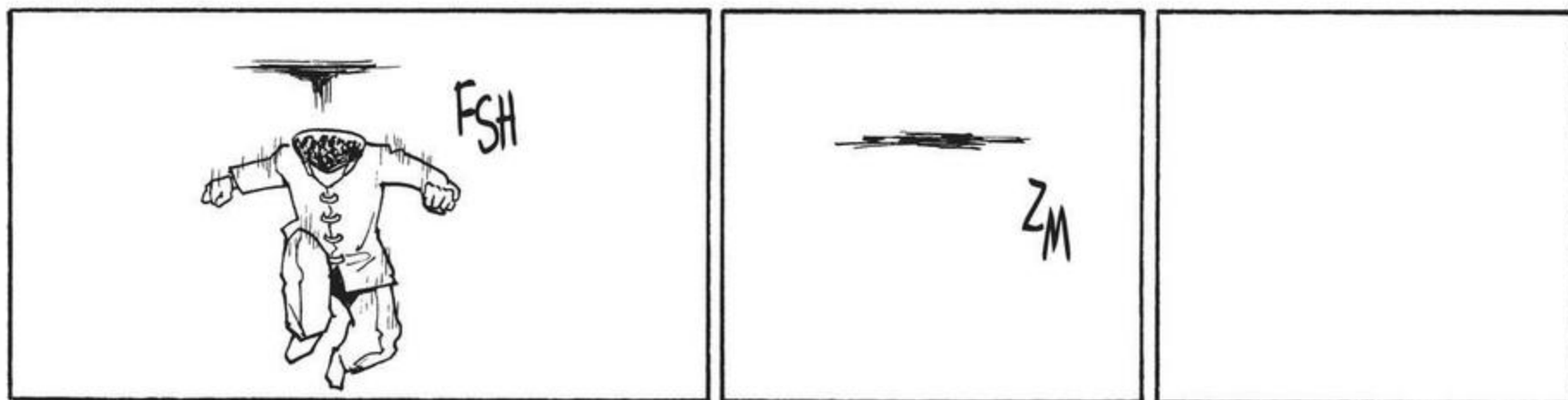
WAY
TOO BIG
TO BE
SUBTLE.

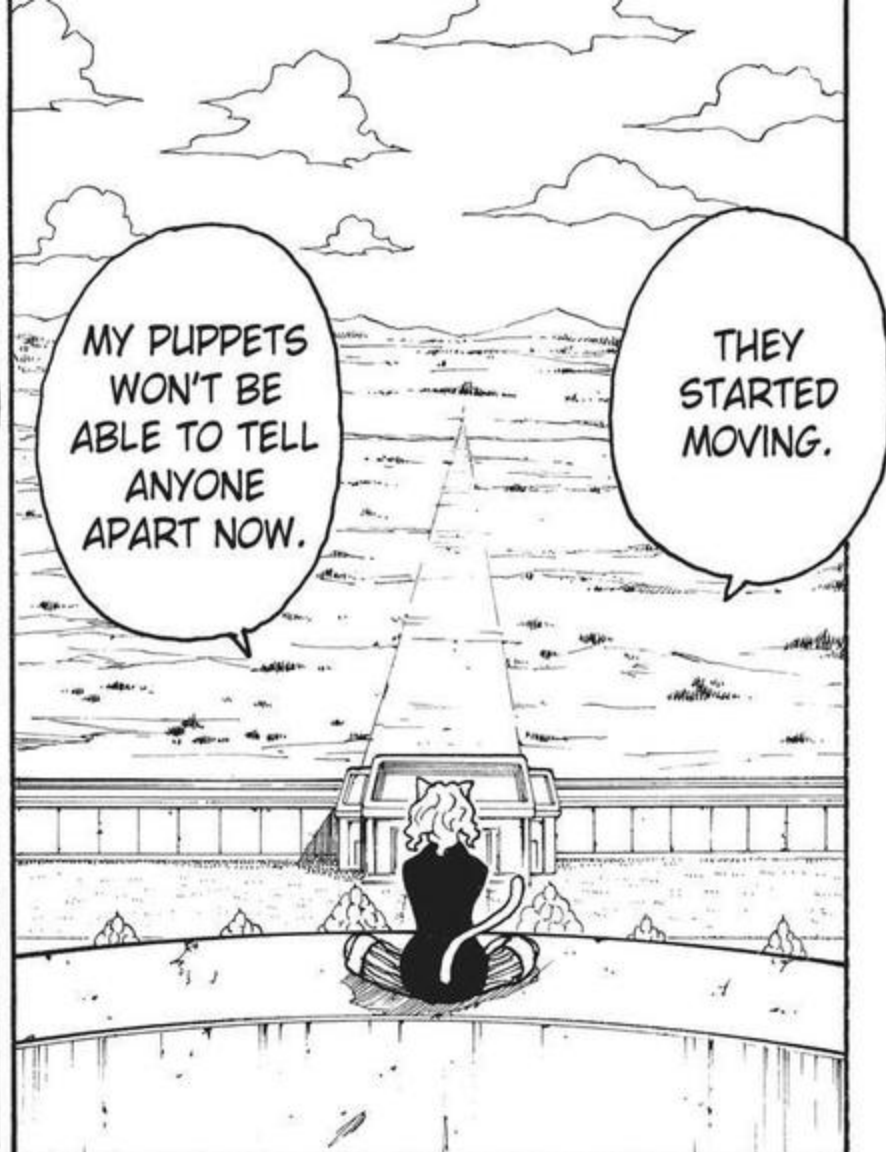


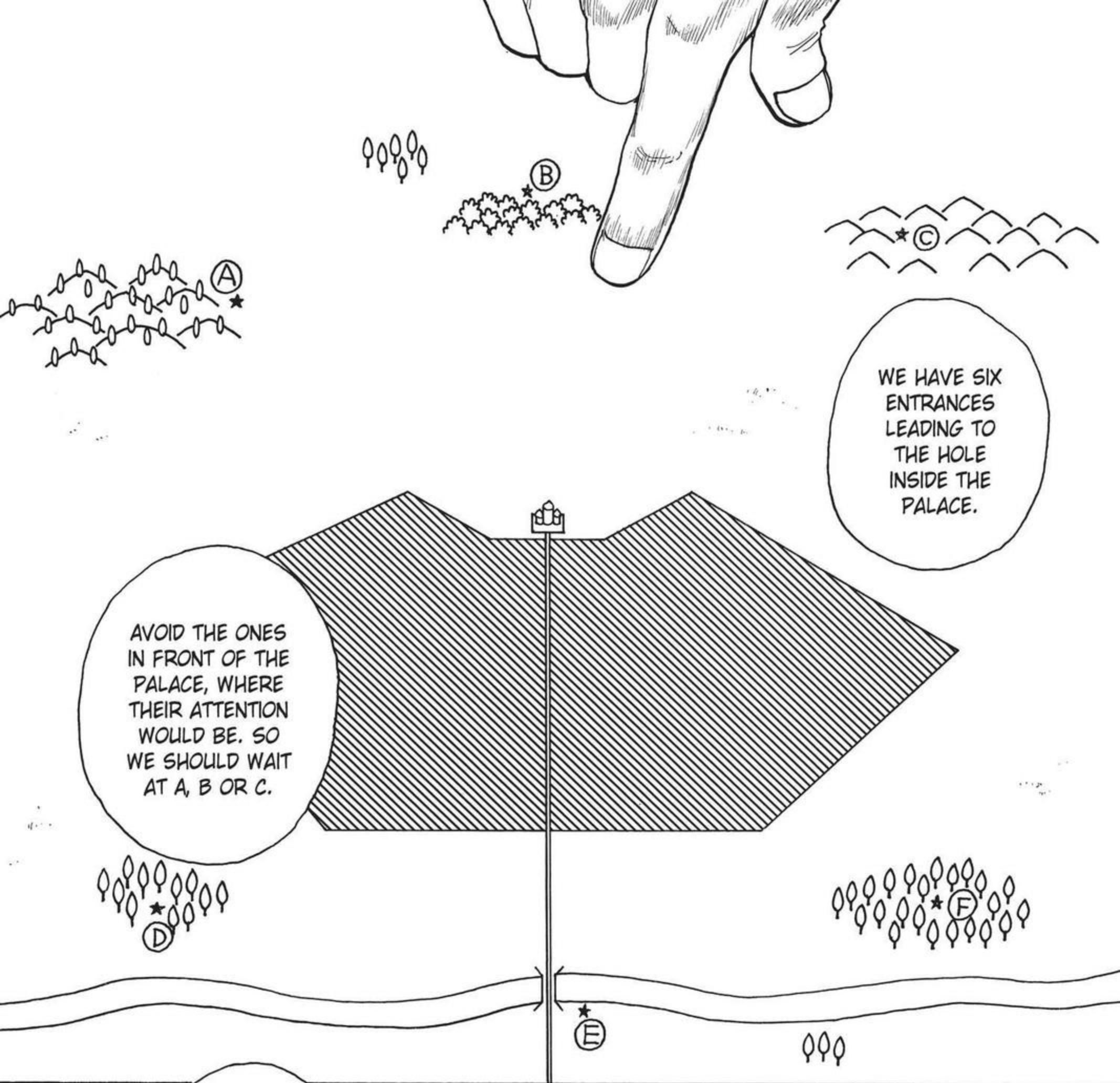
THEY'RE
PROBABLY
USING
ZETSU...

THEIR
AURAS...
THEY'RE
GONE.









...THE ONLY WAY OUT WILL BE THROUGH THE PALACE.

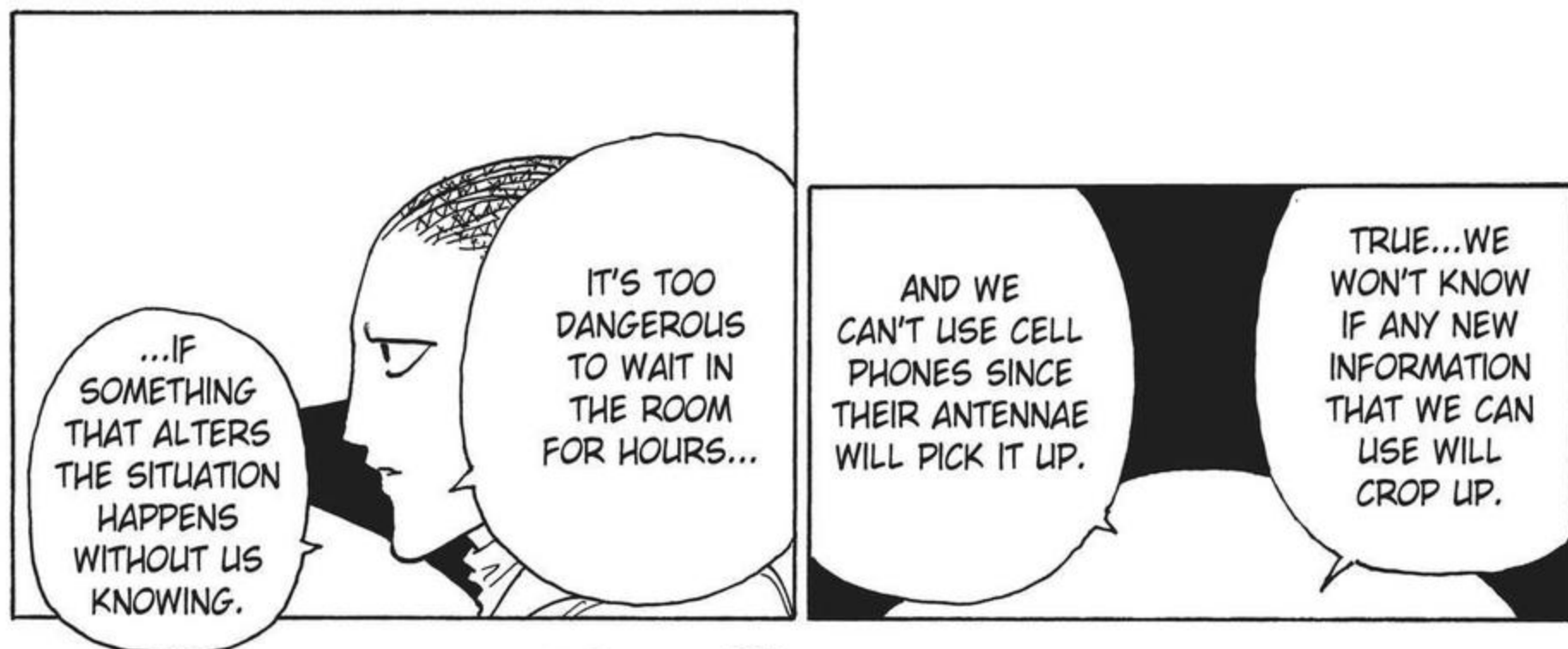
ONCE WE ENTER THOSE ROOMS...

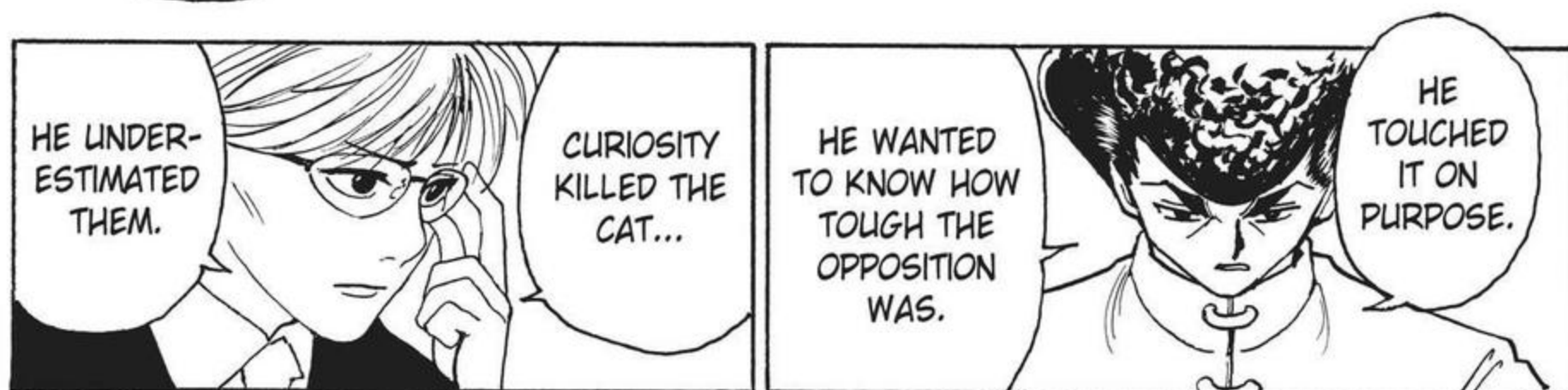
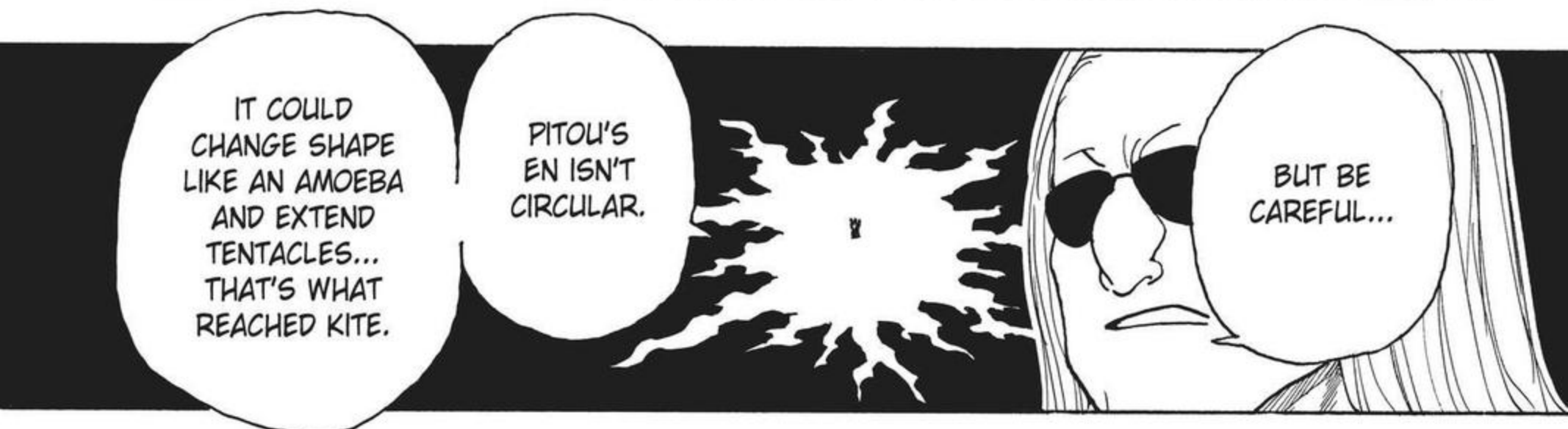
BUT IF WE ENTER THE ROOMS TOO EARLY, WE CAN'T GET OUT UNTIL MIDNIGHT.

IT'S TOO RISKY TO WAIT AROUND CLOSE TO THE PALACE.

ARE YOU KIDDING? I JUST WANT TO BE PREPARED.

YOU SCARED?





ANYONE
WHO GETS
OUT OF LINE
WILL BE
SHOT ON
SIGHT!!

WE ARE
NOW
HEADING
TO THE
PALACE!!

GO!!

TOMP TOMP TOMP TOMP TOMP TOMP



SIRE!

PITOU!



SO I
LET IT
BE.

BUT I
DEEMED IT
WOULD NOT
BRING YOU
HARM.



YES.

I KEEP
VIGILANT
WITH MY
EN...

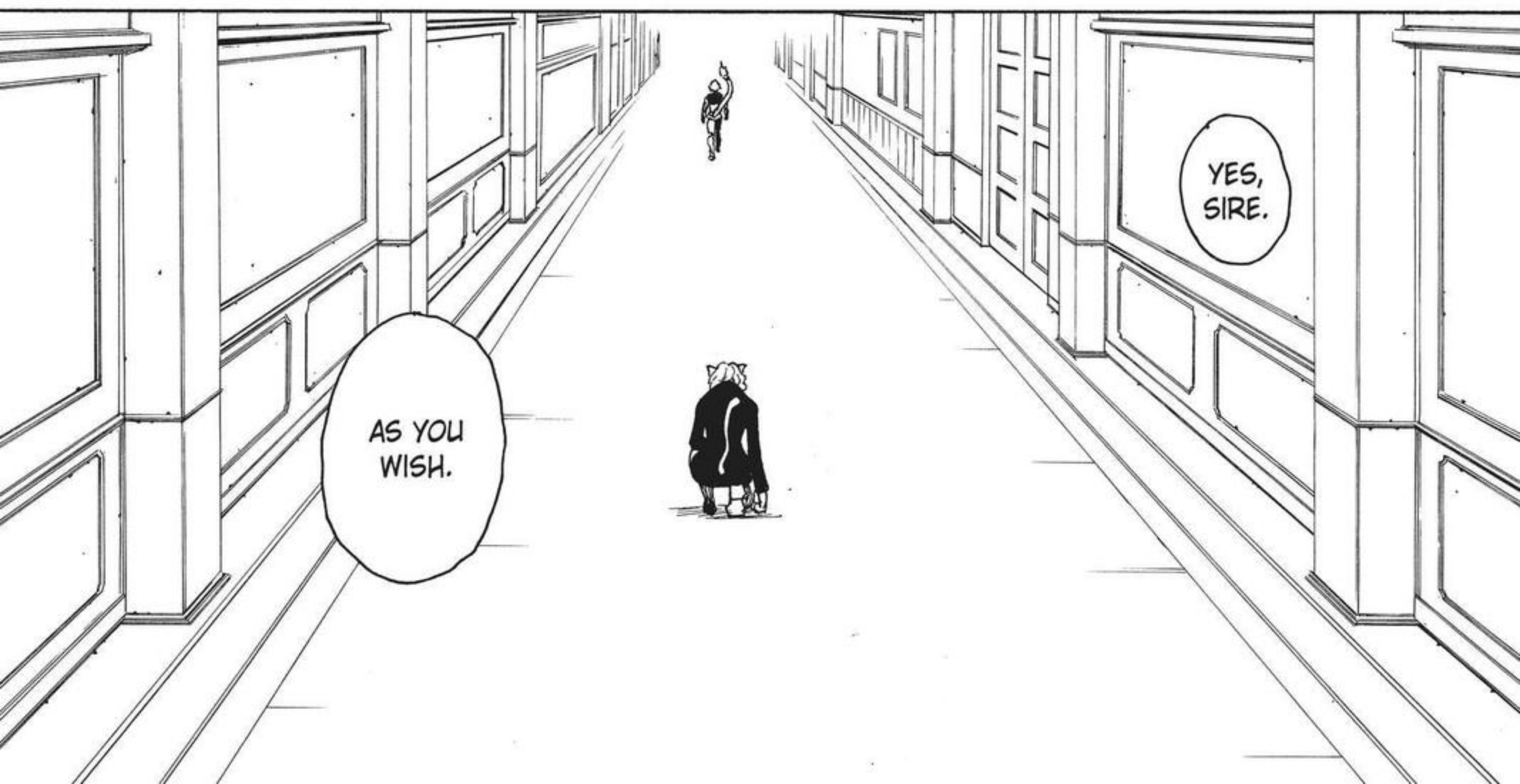
YOU KNEW
KOMUGI
WAS BEING
ATTACKED,
DID YOU
NOT?



TAKE
APPROPRIATE
ACTION AT
ONCE IF
ANYTHING
HAPPENS.

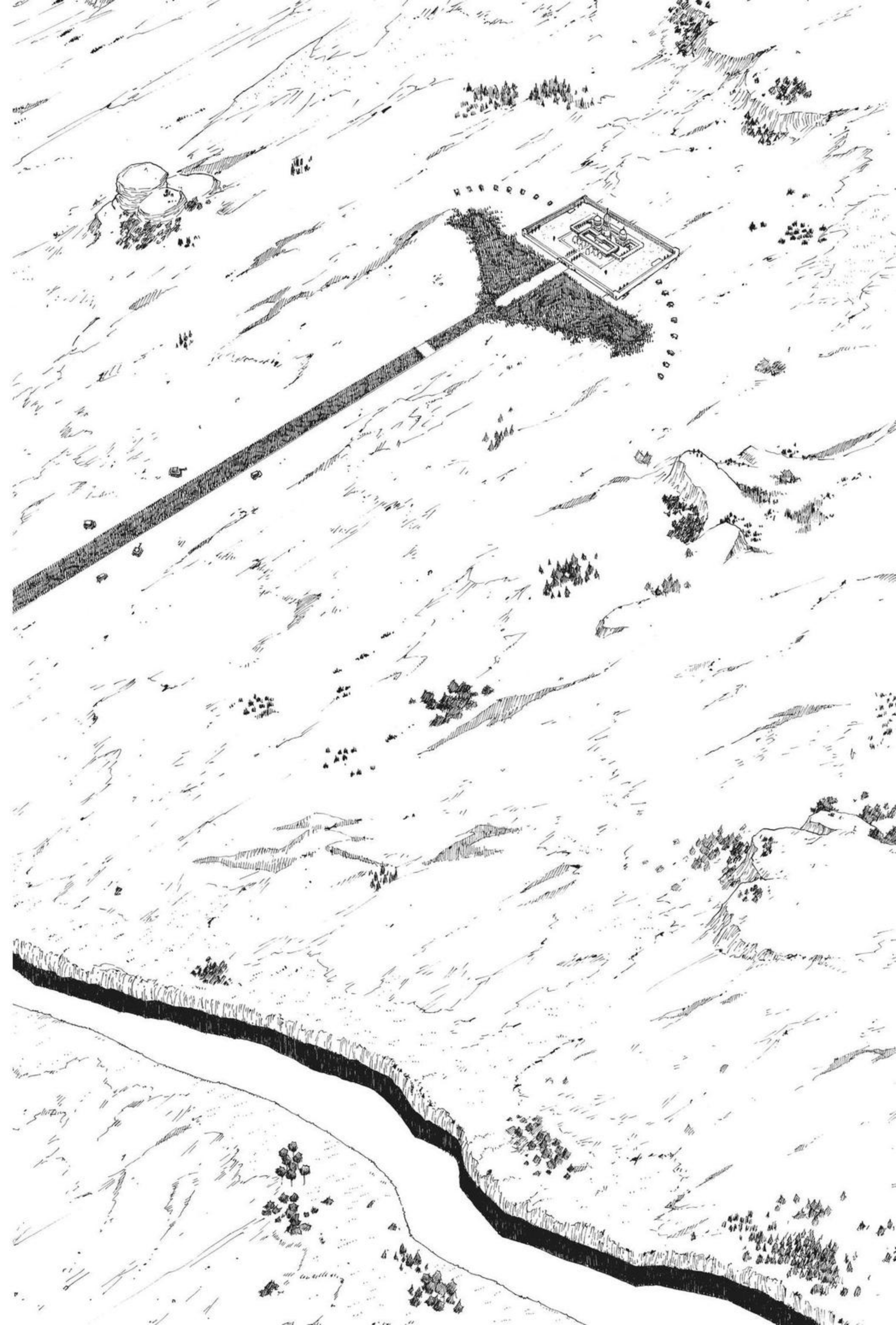
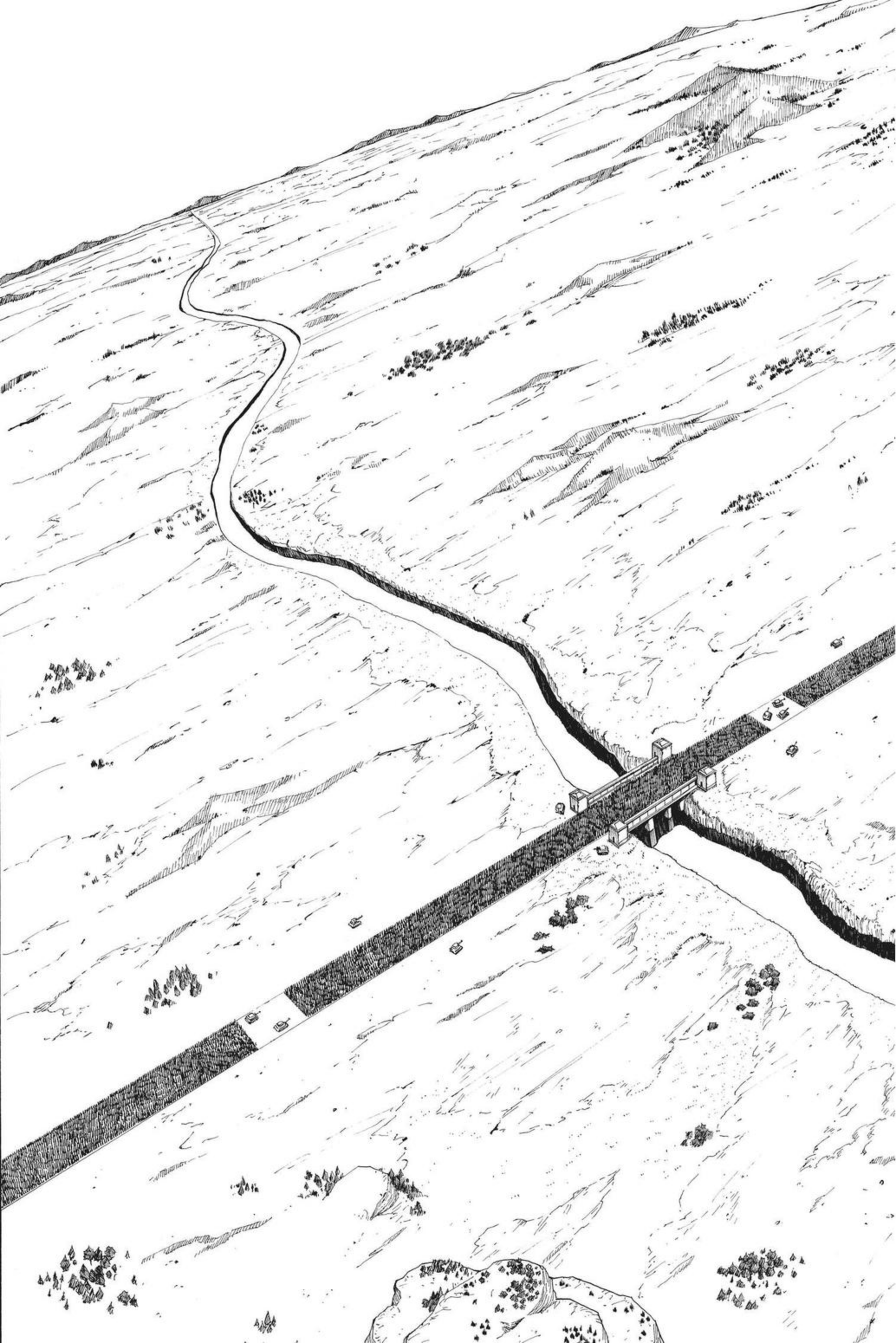


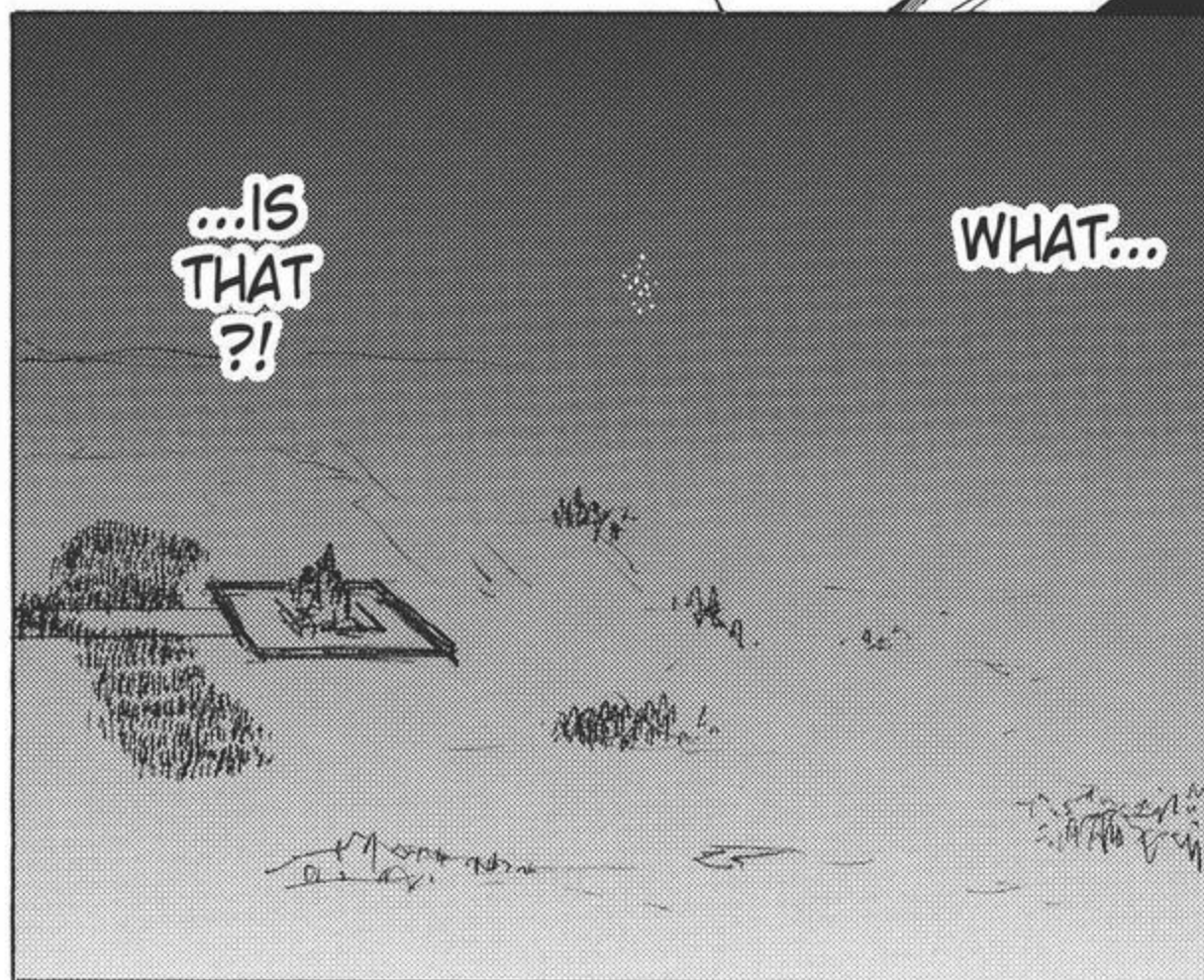
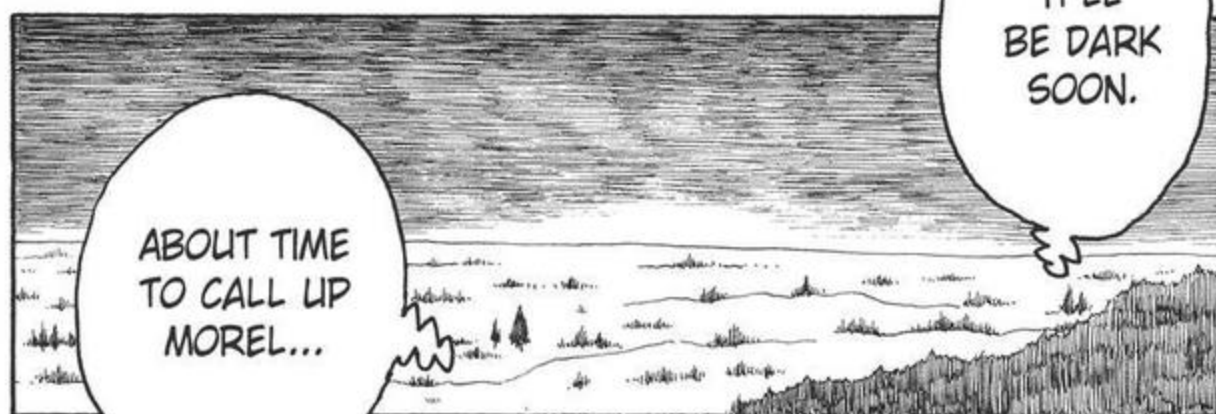
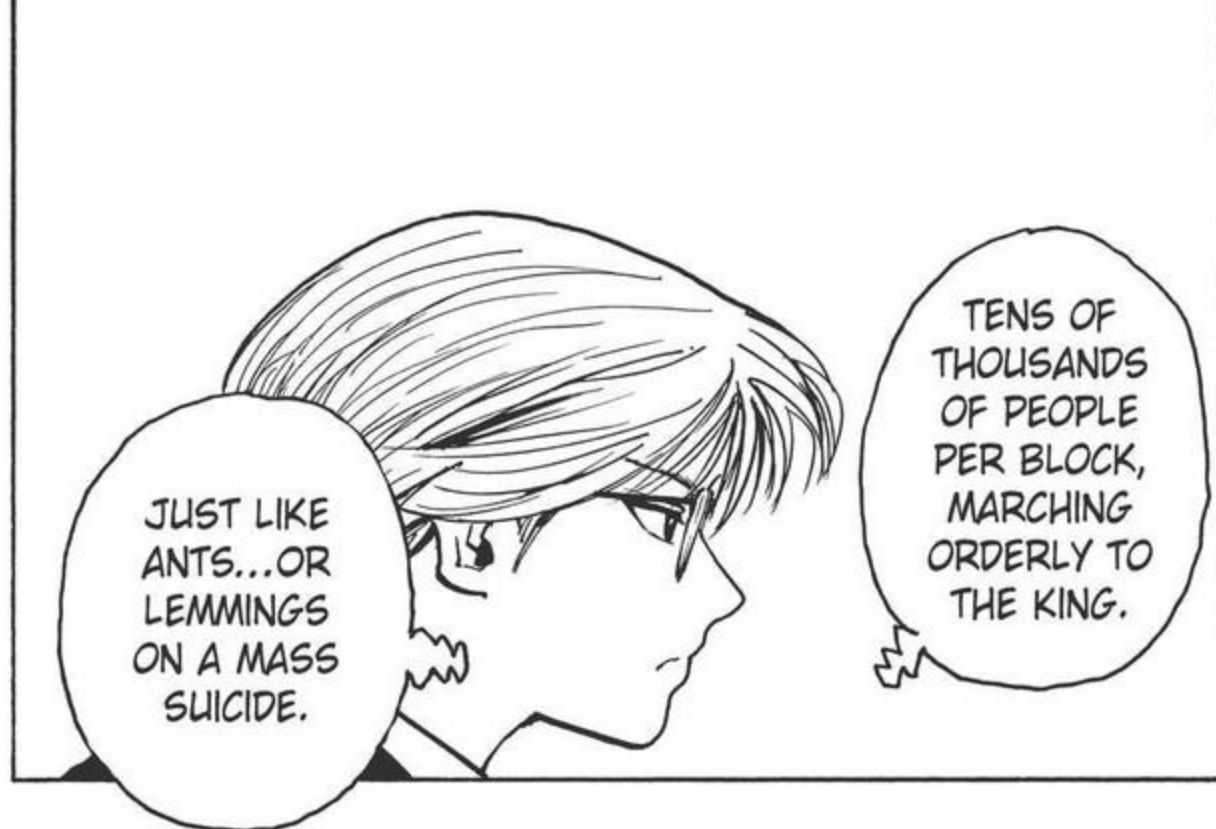
FROM NOW
ON, KEEP
AN EYE ON
KOMUGI AS
WELL.

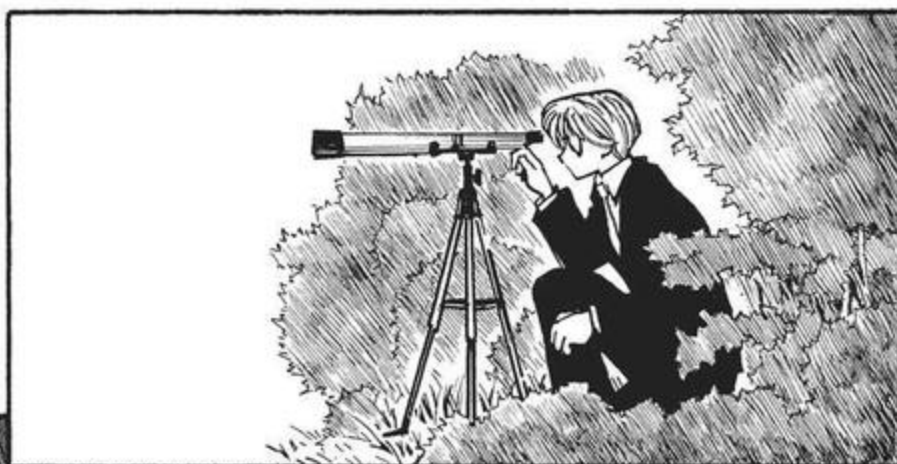


YES,
SIRE.

AS YOU
WISH.

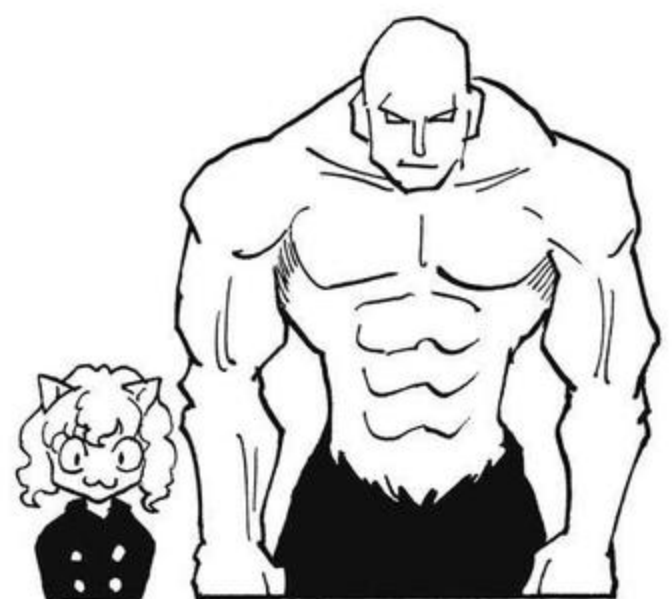


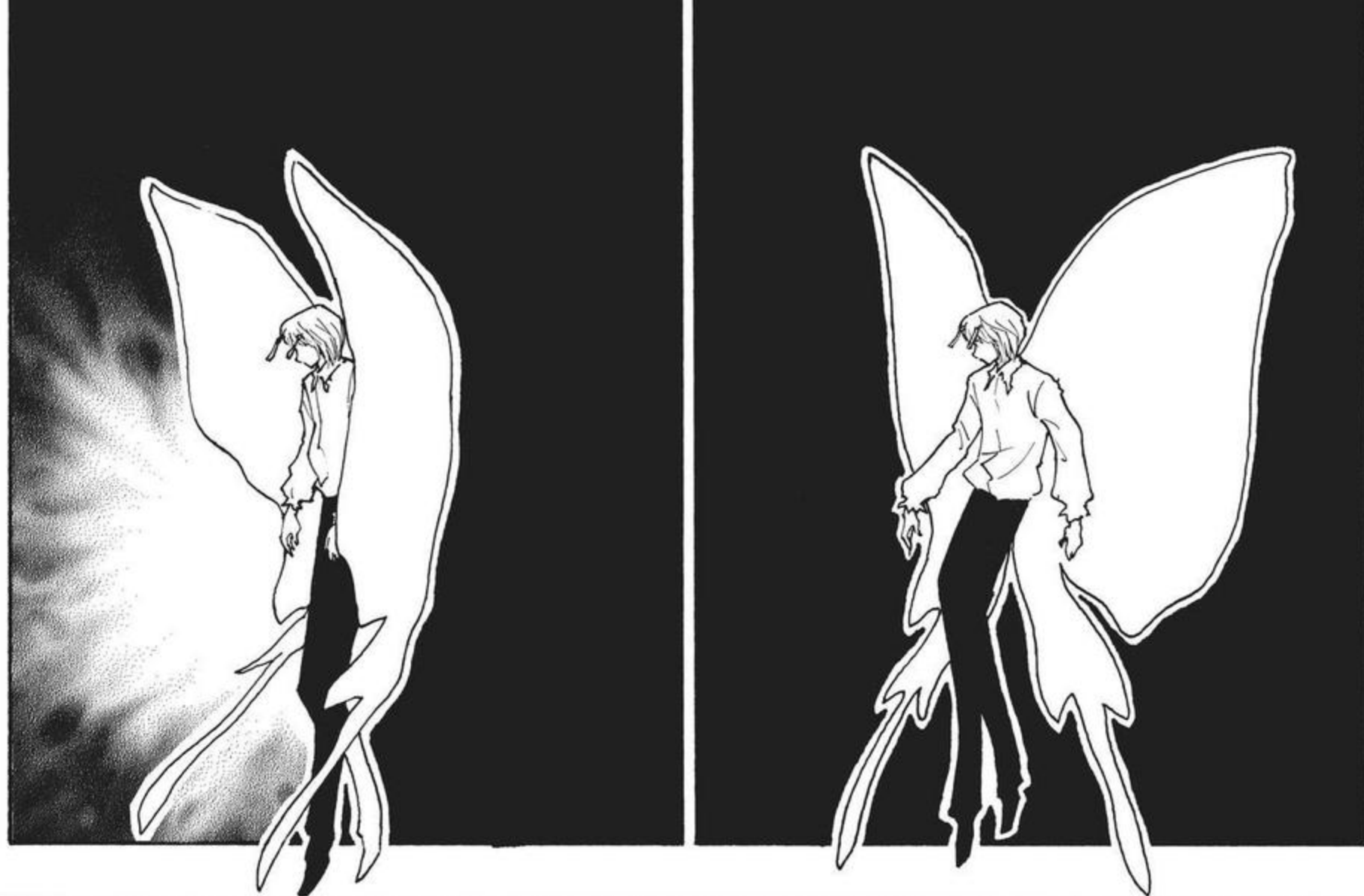




DUST?!
...OR
BUTTER-
FLY
SCALES
?!







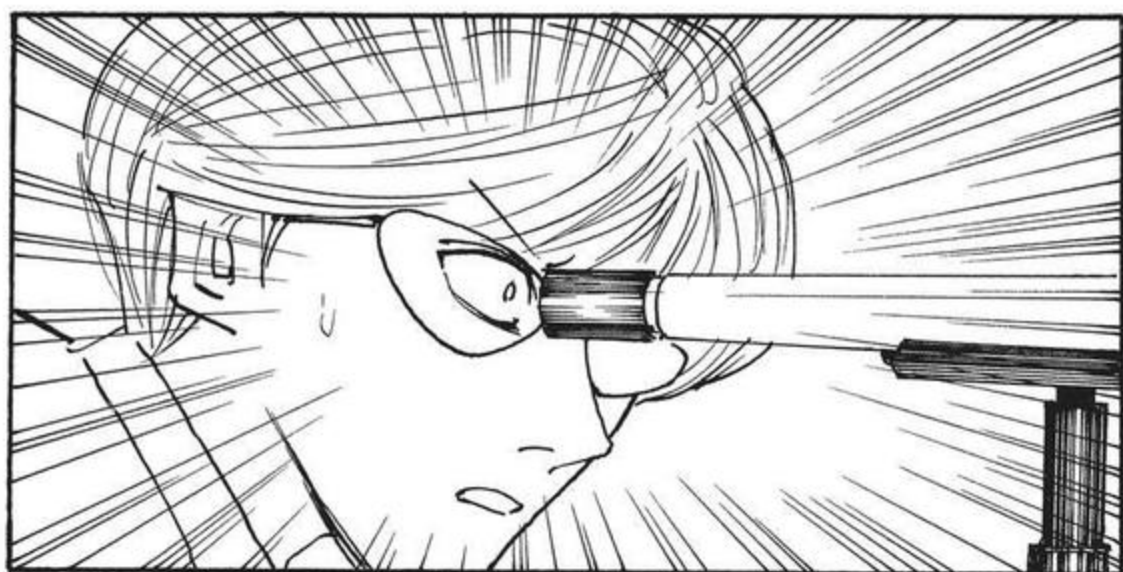
Chapter 260: 1: Part 4



...AND
BLOWS THEM
TOWARDS THE
CROWD!!

THE FAINT
BREEZE
CARRIES HIS
SCALES...

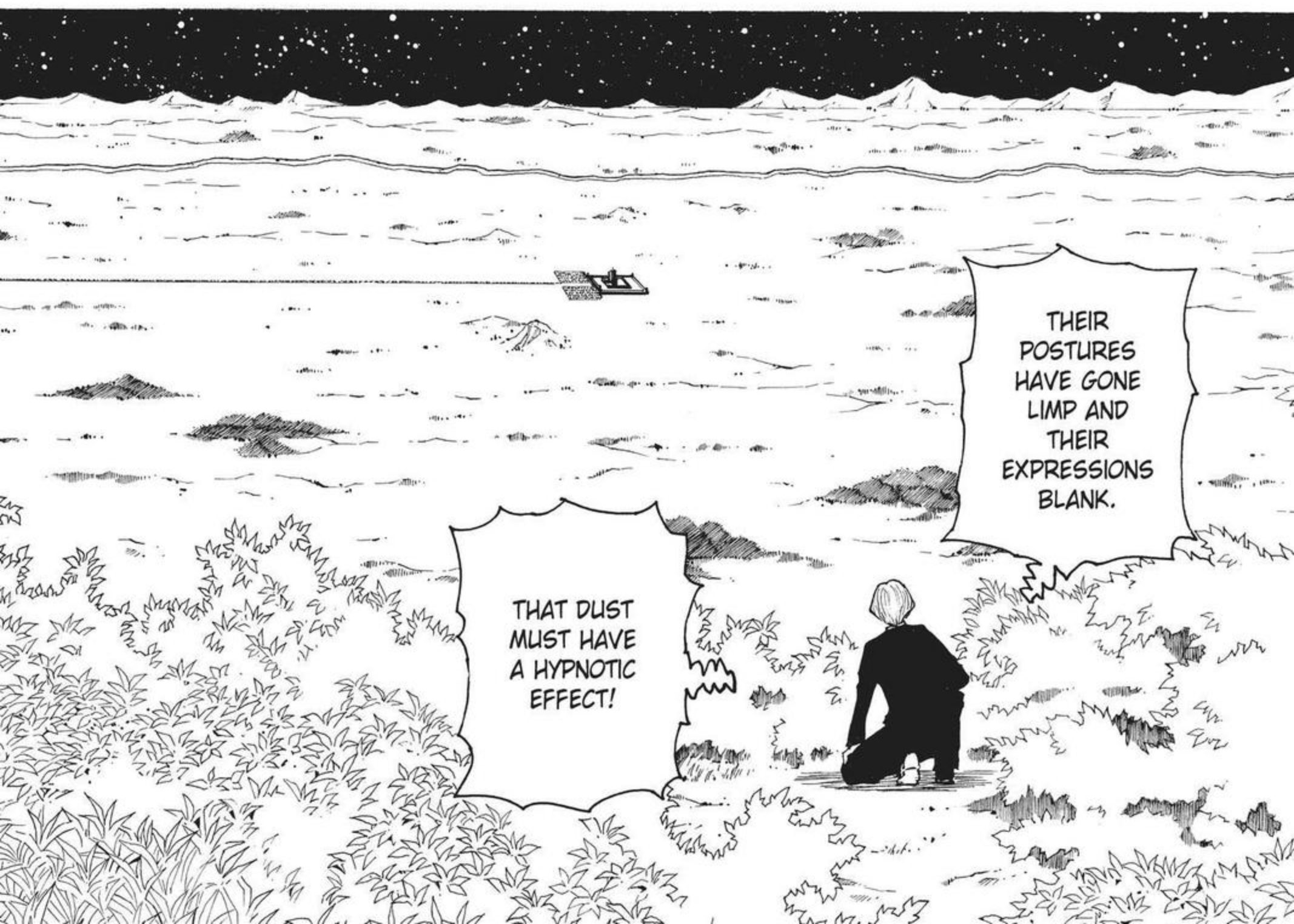




SO
THEN...

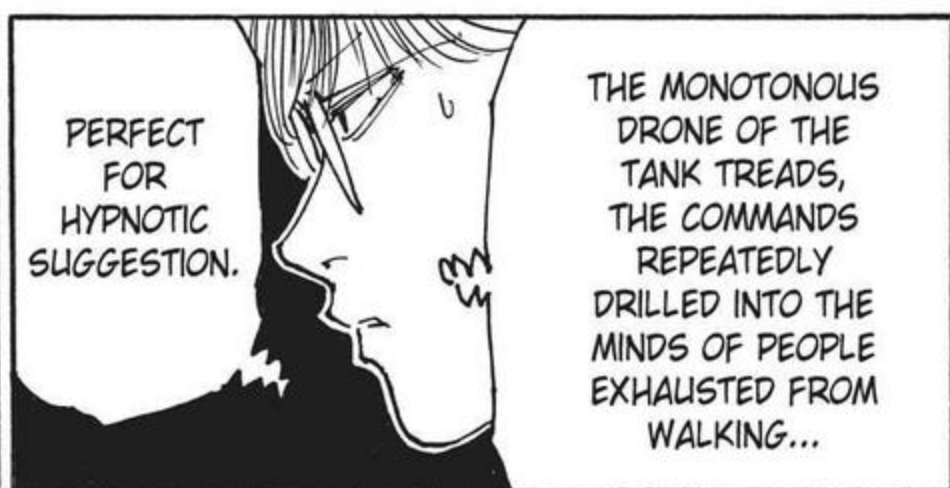
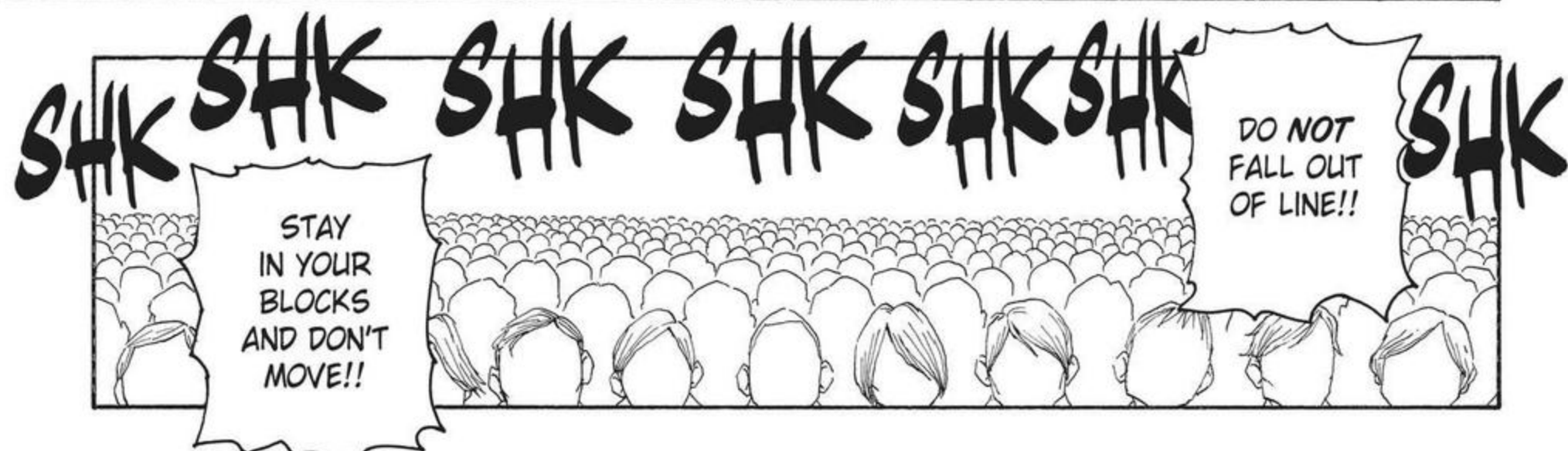
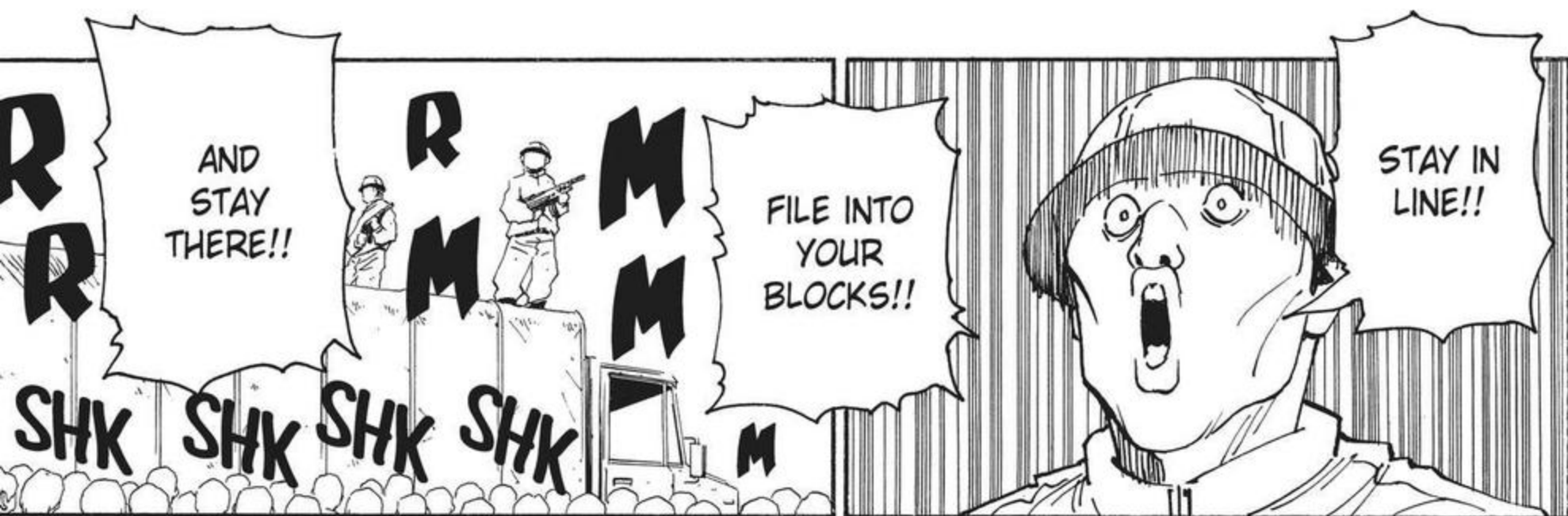


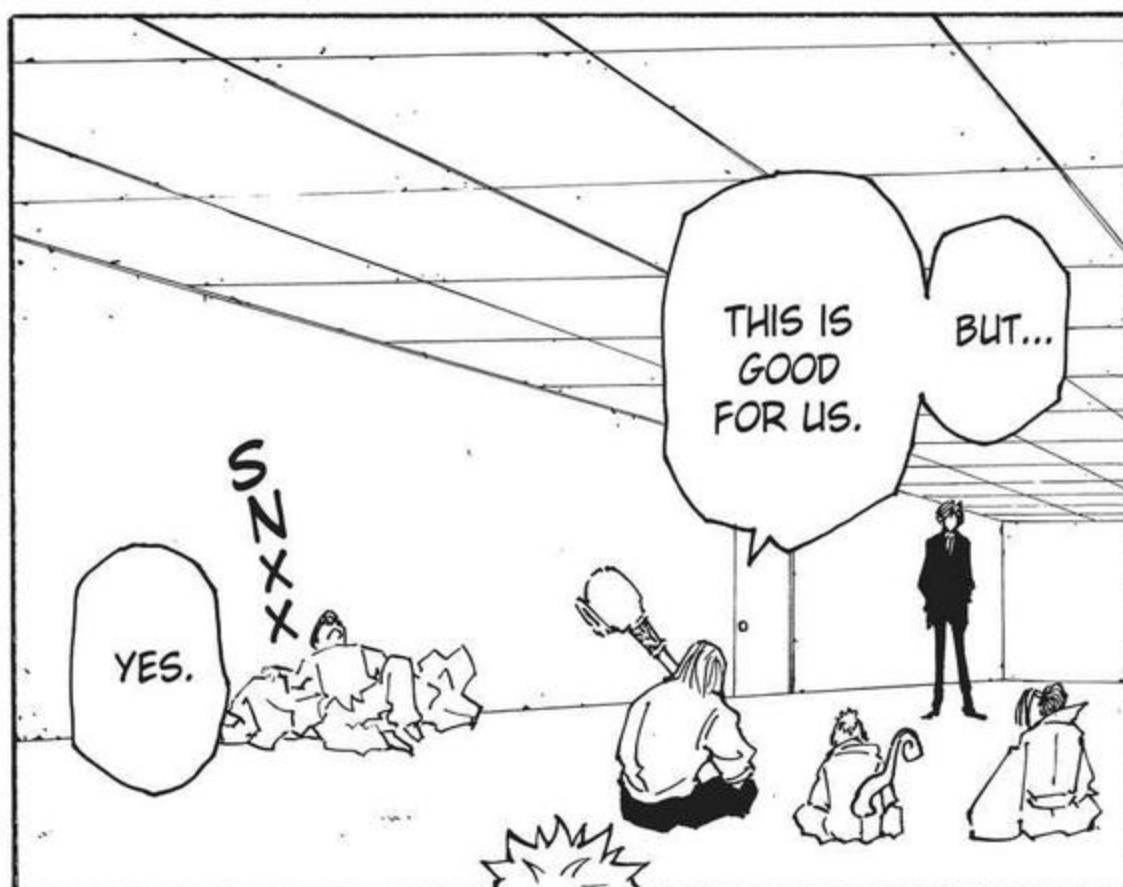
I
KNEW
IT!!



THEIR
POSTURES
HAVE GONE
LIMP AND
THEIR
EXPRESSIONS
BLANK.

THAT DUST
MUST HAVE
A HYPNOTIC
EFFECT!





THIS IS GOOD FOR US.

BUT...

YES.



SO NOBODY COULD RUN AWAY.

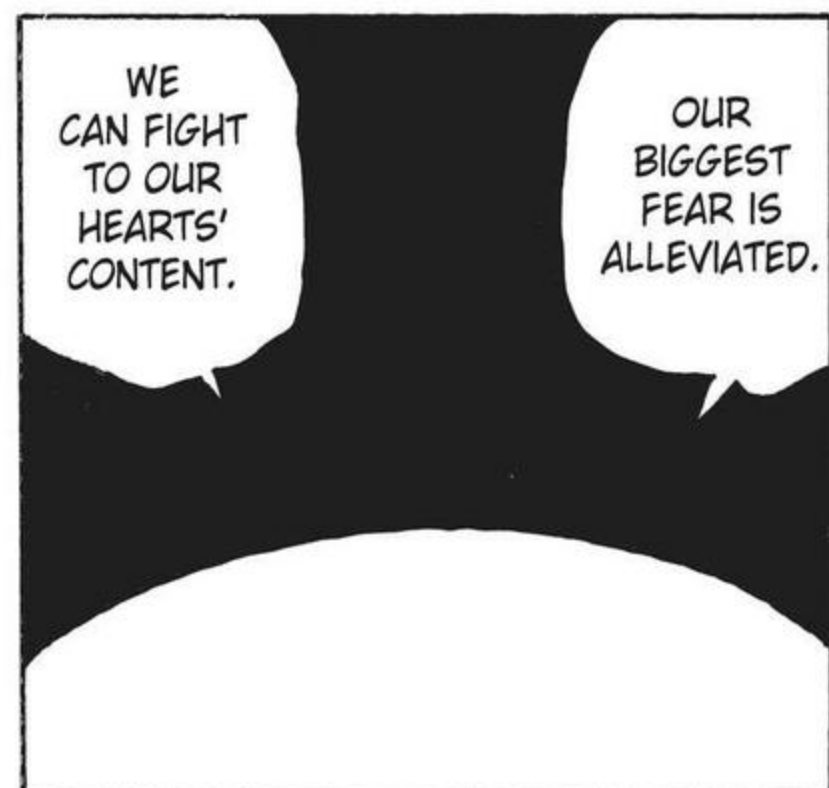
HYPNOSIS...



?

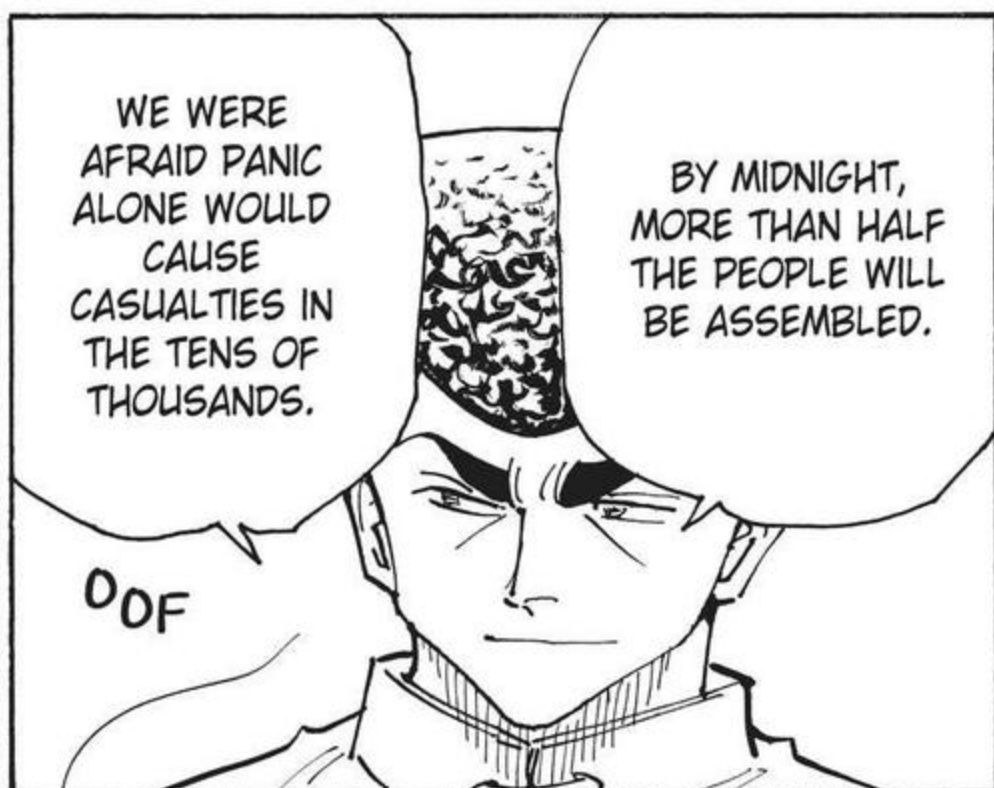
NO STAMPEDES AS THEY SCRAMBLE TO ESCAPE... THIS IS A HUGE DEAL.

THE CROWD WON'T FLY INTO A PANIC EVEN IF THE BATTLE STARTS TO GET OUT OF HAND.



WE CAN FIGHT TO OUR HEARTS' CONTENT.

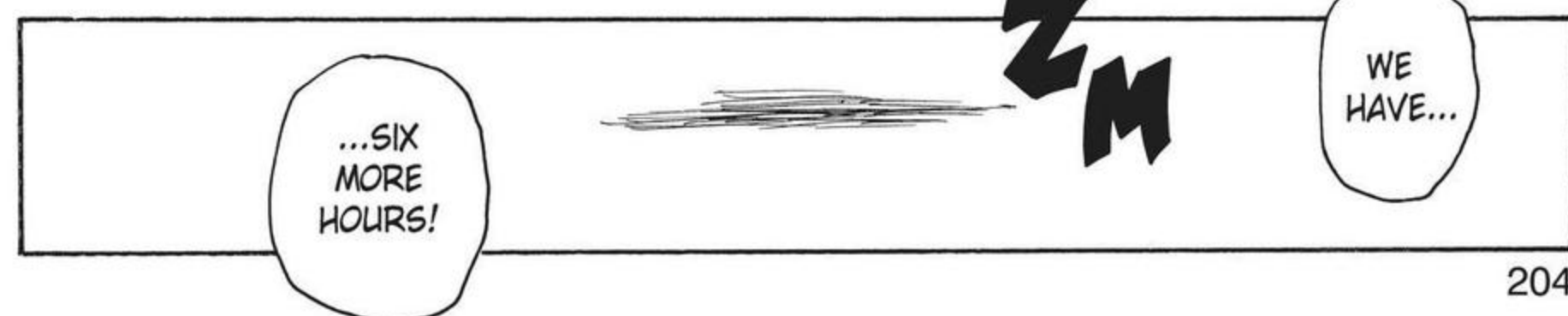
OUR BIGGEST FEAR IS ALLEVIATED.



WE WERE AFRAID PANIC ALONE WOULD CAUSE CASUALTIES IN THE TENS OF THOUSANDS.

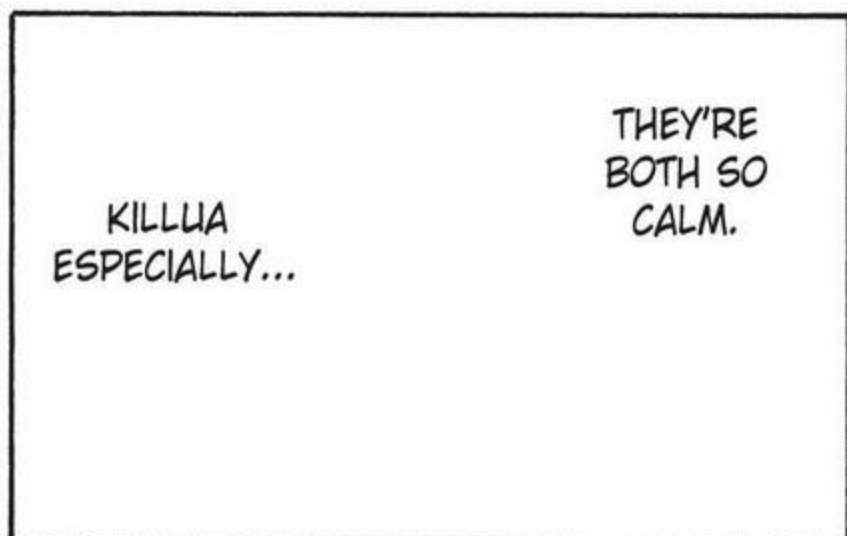
BY MIDNIGHT, MORE THAN HALF THE PEOPLE WILL BE ASSEMBLED.

OOF



...SIX MORE HOURS!

WE HAVE...



...HE
SEEMS
SO
SAD?

IT'S
GROWING
BACK!

BUT THEN,
WHY IS IT
THAT ONCE
IN A
WHILE...

COLT'S
A GOOD
KID.

MANKIND'S
FUTURE
RESTS IN
MY HANDS
...

B-BMP
B-BMP

NOT
WHEN
I'M THE
MOST
ANXIOUS
ONE
HERE.

I CAN'T
WORRY
ABOUT
OTHERS
NOW!!

IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF
THEY'RE
ANTS OR
HUMAN!!

MELEORON
AND IKALGO
ARE GOOD
AT HEART
TOO.

WE
CAN'T
STOP
THEM...

BUT WE
HAVE NO
CHOICE.

I WISH
I COULD
DUKE IT
OUT WITH
THE KING...

I'D LIKE TO
THINK THAT
EVERYONE
HAS A
HEART.

THEY'LL
KILL
US!!

IF WE
DON'T KILL
THEM...





I CAN HOLD MY BREATH
FOR A MAXIMUM OF TWO
MINUTES. HALF THAT
WOULD BE REALISTIC
CONSIDERING MY
NERVES UNDER
THESE CONDITIONS.



ONE MINUTE
WILL BE
PLENTY.



SHOULDN'T
BE A
PROBLEM...



MY NEW
LIFE BEGINS
TOMORROW.

ALMOST
MIDNIGHT...



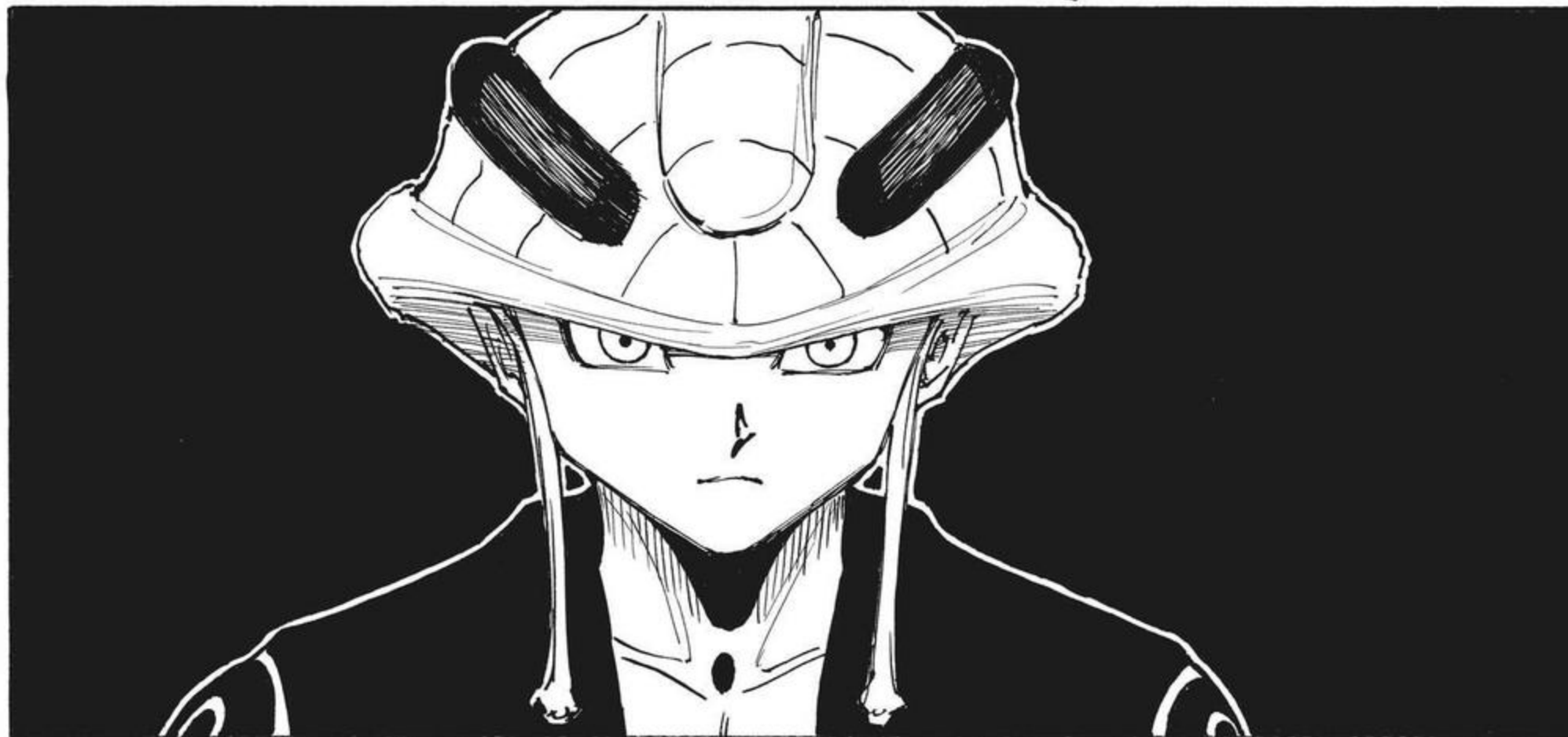
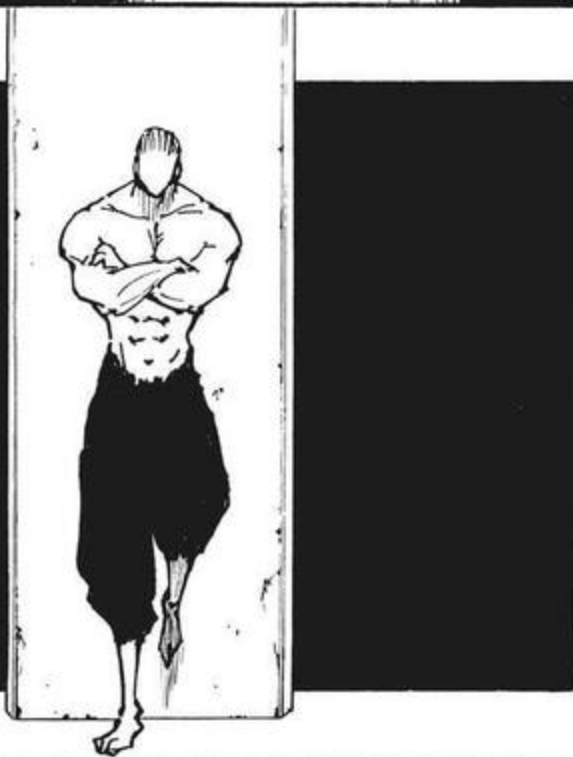
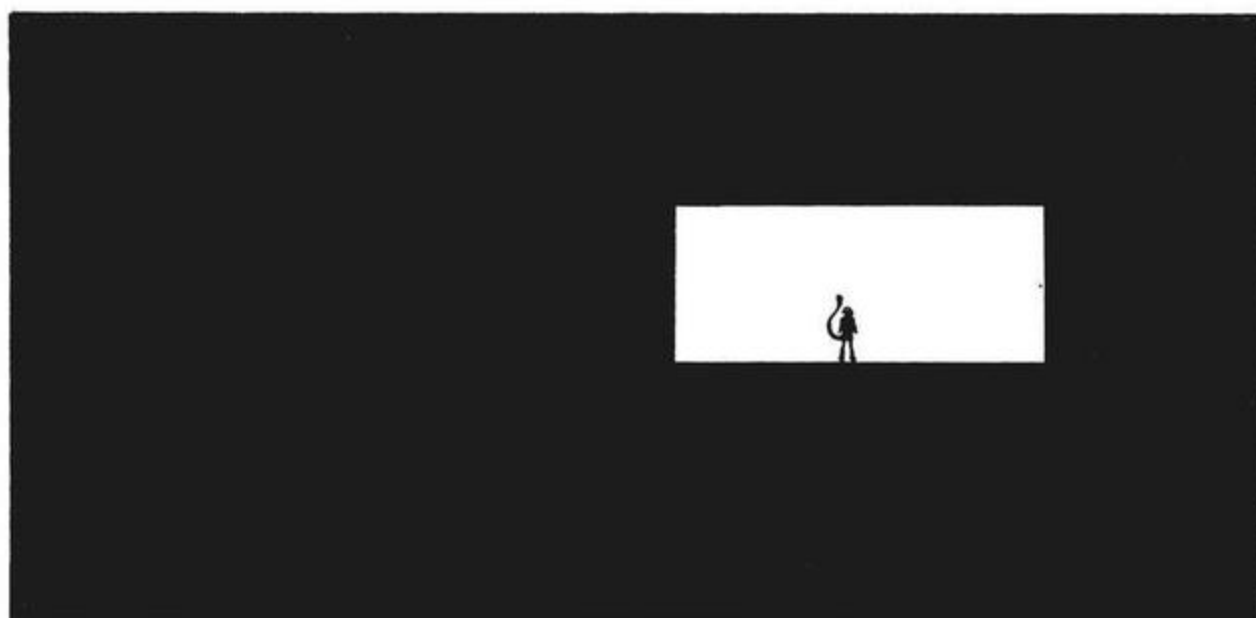
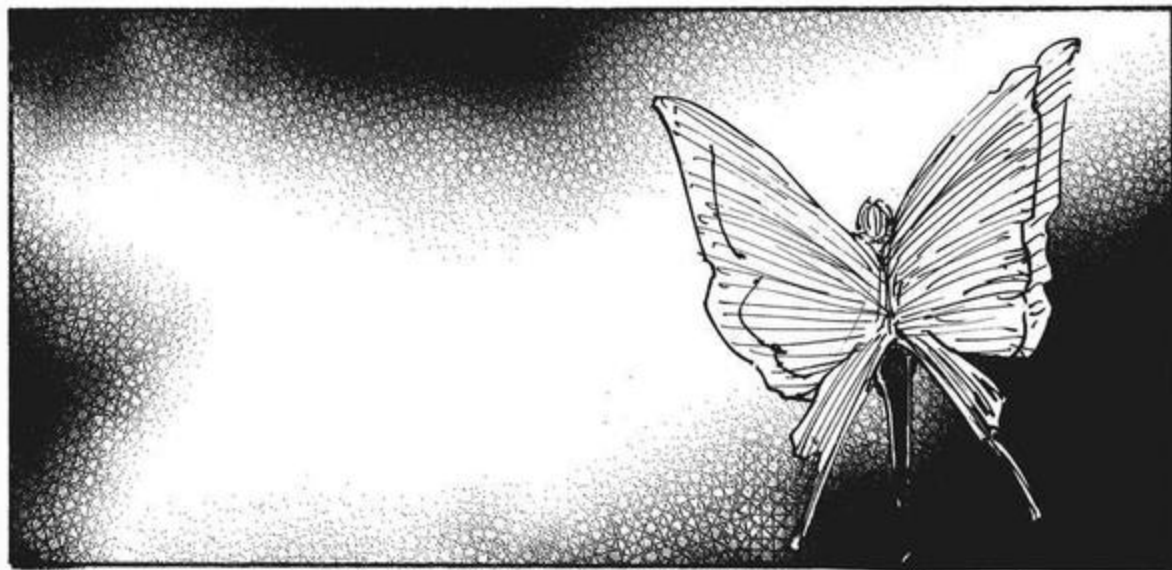
AND
CELEBRATE
MY REBIRTH!!

I SWEAR
I'LL CARRY
OUT MY
MISSION FOR
YOUR SAKE!!

THANK
YOU,
KILLUA!

I COULDN'T
HAVE EVEN
DREAMT IT
A COUPLE
DAYS AGO.





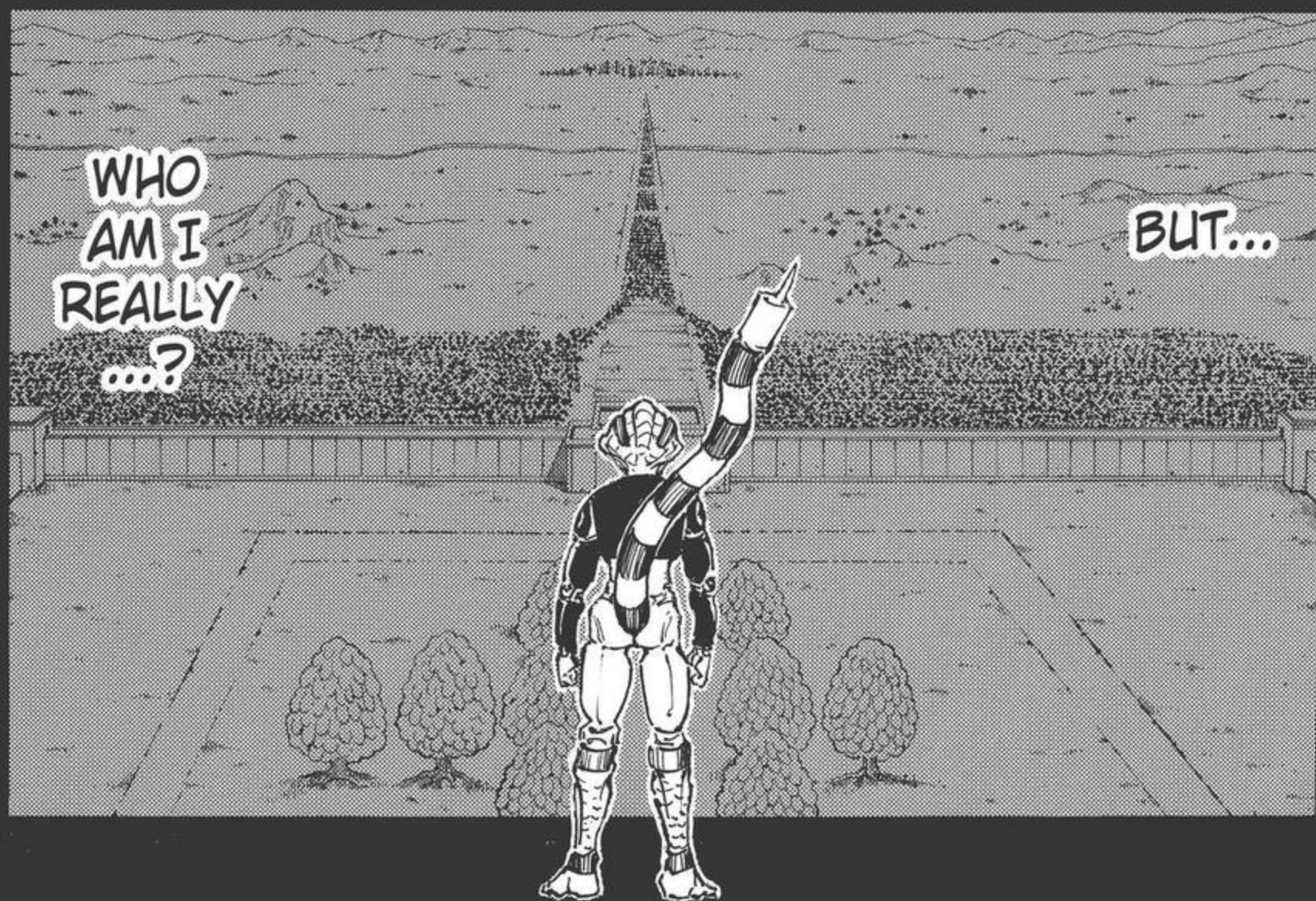
...AM
KING.



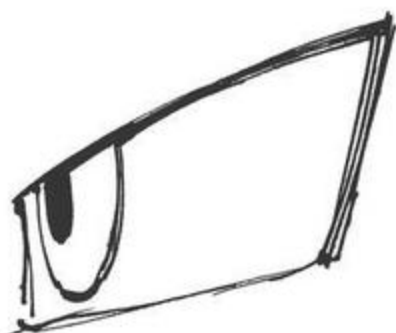
I...

WHO
AM I
REALLY
...?

BUT...



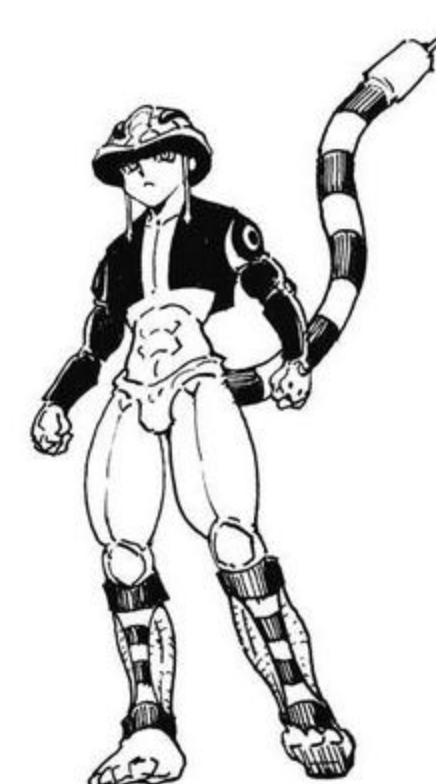
...AM I
HERE?



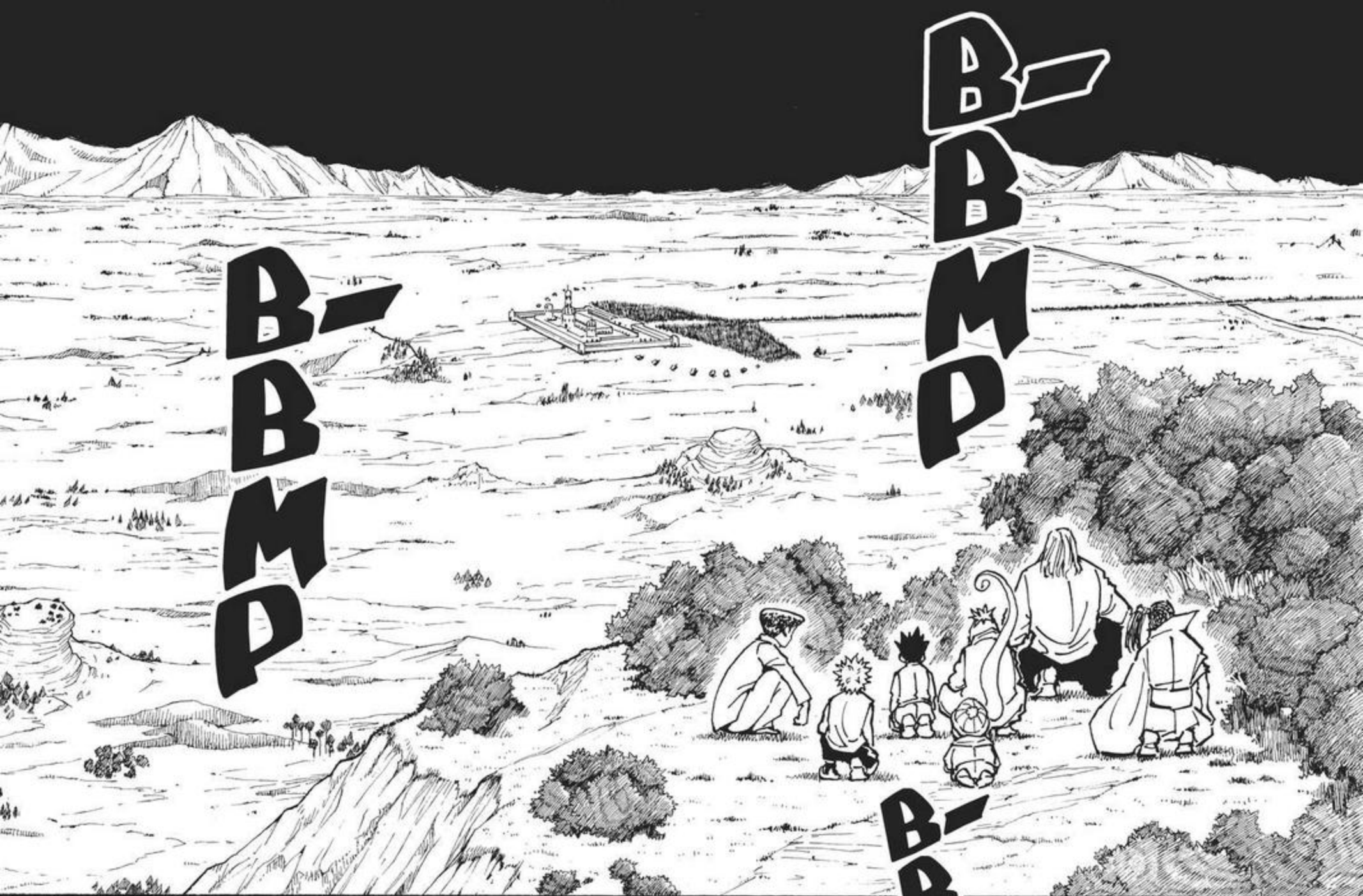
WHY...

...WAS
I BORN?

FOR WHAT
REASON...







...UNTIL WE
STRIKE!!

TEN MORE
MINUTES...